MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE + CLUBBING GUIDE

ISSUE 204 £1.80 APRIL 2014

READERS' AWARDS 2014
YOUR WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

INSIDE

THE PRIDE BALL
IN PICTURES

SAY I DO
OUR GUIDE TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

WE GO GAGA FOR GOGGLEBOX
INTERVIEW INSIDE

SHOUT FILM FESTIVAL
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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

Here's your brand spanking new April edition of Midlands Zone, and boy is it a corker this month! We've got coverage on the Pride Ball, the Readers' Awards, news about Birmingham Pride and the second SHOUT Film Festival makes a return!

The very last Pride Ball

After 14 years, last month saw Midlands Zone magazine and it's Editor-in-Chief, Martin Monahan host it's very last Pride Ball. I know, I know... we said that last year, but we came back once more to pay tribute to Michael Cashman MEP who is this year retiring from politics.

The event was a huge success and we were delighted with the support and feedback we've been receiving since the event took place. We're over the moon to be able to go out on such a high!

Over the years, the Pride Ball has raised over £100,000 for worthy causes including local LGBT, HIV and AIDs charities - and that's thanks to those that have attended the event and bought raffle tickets! So thank you!

This year's Ball supported the theme Equality and Freedom Around the World. With the recent sufferings of the LGBT communities in countries such as Russia, Uganda and Nigeria, this is something that need to be brought to the front of people's minds.

Our opening performance reflected this with an emotionally moving production from some of the best West End stars that moved many people to tears, myself included.

We're sad to see the Pride Ball go - but we owe so much to the people that have helped us make it what it is. A special thanks goes to David Nash for being the Master of Ceremonies for the past 14 years, and a massive well done to my boss, Martin Monahan for all the effort, blood, sweat and tears that he's put into it too.

There's also everyone behind the scenes too - Paul Oliver, Jo Henning, Jess Matthews, Jamie Ryan, Grant Lees, Julia Perry - the list goes on.

If you didn't get a chance to attend last Friday, be sure to check out our selection of pictures reflecting on what a great night we all had. There's even more to be seen on Facebook too, so head to fb.com/midlandszone.co.uk and take a flick through.

Anyone for a wedding?

Finally! The time has come for us gays and lesbians to be able to get married. Equality at last! Hurrah! It took a long time for us to get there, but we've finally done it.

To celebrate, we've compiled a wedding guide that will help you learn about the long journey the whole process went through, tell you exactly what you might need to make your big day perfect and where's a great place to get the deed done! We're travel bugs here at Midlands Zone, so we've also thrown in our top three honeymoon destinations.

Midlands Zone would also like to congratulate Birmingham's first same-sex married couple - Mr and Mr Trinder. They walked down the aisle at Birmingham Register Office on Saturday 29 March after being together for over 26 years!

SHOUT about it!

Lastly, I'm really delighted that the SHOUT Festival of Queer Cinema is making it's return to the Midlands this month. It's the second year the festival has run and it's a great way of showcasing to the Midlands just how great LGBT cinema can be.

If you fancy checking it out, there's our top five flicks from the festival for you to enjoy, with Stranger By The Lake being a firm favourite of mine. Take a look - you might enjoy it!

That's all from me this month, but I hope you enjoy the April issue! See you next month!

What's Hot!

Gabrielle at Pride!

The Midlands Zone office were ecstatic when we learnt the amazing new line-up for this year's Birmingham Pride! Top of our list to meet and see is the one and only Gabrielle! That's right - Gabrielle! We're certainly hoping that she won't be 'Out of Reach'! Boom boom!

Elton John and David Furnish to get married

We're delighted to hear that celebrity couple Elton John and David Furnish have announced plans to get married following the introduction of same-sex marriage!

Whilst they're already in a civil partnership, the couple are going to do it all over again - but this time on a much quieter scale.

Regardless, we're sure that the our invite is already in the post - we're buying our hats ready for the big day!

Would you like your wedding to be featured?

Now that we're finally allowed to tie the knot (hurray!), we're on the lookout for couples who'd like to feature in Midlands Zone magazine. Whether it's the planning leading up to the big day or the wedding itself, we'd love to hear from you! We do love a good wedding!

If you're interested in being featured in a future issue of Zone, get in touch with its Editor, Ryan, by emailing ryan@midlandszone.co.uk

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Deano Trickett

DJ
Various venues across the Midlands

Born: **Nuneaton, Warwickshire**
Star sign: **Taurus**
Age: **31**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This month, our focus turns on Deano Trickett, a popular DJ at venues in both Birmingham and Nottingham.

About Deano

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in Hereford, a quiet kind of place on the Welsh border.

Single or attached?
Attached.

What makes you happy?
Friends, family and being around positive people.

What makes you sad?
Argumentative people, missing a gym session!

What makes you angry?
Cruelty to animals, child abuse, suffering.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
I wish I could be a bit more patient - I don't like waiting!

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?
Going back a lot of years, I was booked to DJ at a club one New Year's Eve - but as I wasn't DJing until 2am, I decided to go out for a few drinks before I started. Needless to say, I had a few too many and ended up passing out in the DJ box before the end of my set, much to the amusement of the crowd!

Now same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?
I think it's great that same-sex marriage has been legalised - people should be able to marry whoever they like, regardless of gender. As for myself getting married, who knows what the future holds!

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?
I can't really remember not knowing, so it must have been from a young age. I went through a stage of being 'bisexual', but found that I liked lads a lot more than girls!

When did you come out?
I came out when I was 19 and at university.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?
Because I hadn't really worked out that I was gay when I was at school, I didn't really have any issues and fitted in fine.

Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?
My big sister. I casually mentioned to her in a conversation over lunch that I'd fallen out with one of my best female friends, because I'd been shagging her boyfriend and got found out! She found the story funny - and that was that, I guess.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their sexuality?
Don't worry about what other people think. Be true to yourself - there's no rush to put a label on your sexuality. Take some time to get to know yourself first.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?
I have. I had two relationships with girls when I was at uni.

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be?
When I was a kid, I used to see the dustbin men driving their huge rubbish collection lorry and wanted to be just like them. Clearly, I had high aspirations!

What was your first job?
When I started at college, I took a part-time job at Tesco, stacking shelves in the fizzy drinks aisle!

You're a DJ at The Village Inn in Birmingham, and also at Nottingham's NG1. How did you first get into DJing?
When I was 14 I got involved with Hereford hospital radio and started presenting and DJing. I studied Media & Communications at university, and helped to set up Juicy, the first official gay night at the University of Wolverhampton student union, which I DJed at.

What's the most rewarding aspect of being a DJ?
There's nothing to beat that feeling of energy which comes from playing to a crowd you really connect with.

And the worst?
People treating you like a jukebox, expecting their requests played immediately - and if you don't oblige, they get angry!

Which DJs do you look up to?
I admire David Guetta for his production work - fusing urban vocals with electronic dance to create the 'urban dance' genre, which has shaped the direction in which commercial music has moved in recent years.

If you had one venue in the world in which you could DJ, which would it be?
Without a doubt I'd love to DJ at Privilege in Ibiza - the summer party vibe is always electric.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?
Winning the lottery and owning my own club!

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene and what's your earliest memory?
I've been visiting the Midlands gay scene since I was 18. My earliest memory is of a night out on Hurst Street with a group of student mates. We visited Missing and The Nightingale.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?
I used to love watching Twiggy's shows, because of her ability to lip-sync the entire thing perfectly. She had one of the best backing tracks, with clips of random vocals. She must've spent hours and hours rehearsing to keep up with it!

Who's your favourite person on the Midlands gay scene?
It's got to be Mrs Mills, because she's the very first person I worked with on the gay scene. I admire her longstanding support of the Birmingham scene, and her fab new teeth!

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?
The familiar faces and friendly welcome you get on a night out. There's a real community feeling in and around the gay village.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?
I think the scene is more open than it used to be. I feel it's now socially acceptable for gay people to visit straight venues, and for straight people to visit gay venues. It's more mixed now, and there's less of a division between what's straight and what's gay.

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?
I'm not sure that I would - it's a great place.

Time Out

Where do you go on a night out?
If I can, I go to London. There's a unique 'London House' sound in the clubs there, which you don't find anywhere else in the UK. Love it!

What do you do to relax?
A nice hot bath wins every time!

What do you enjoy on telly?
Anything to do with zombies! At the moment, I'm really enjoying The Walking Dead.

What was the last album or track you bought?
Sam Smith's EP on iTunes. He's got an incredible voice, and is someone to watch out for in 2014.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?
An exotic beach holiday. Sunshine, sand, sea and sangria!

Which one website do you spend the most time on?
I'm addicted to Facebook. I spend too much time being nosey!

Quick Fire

Who's your favourite actor?
The late Kenneth Williams. He was a fantastic comic actor and raconteur.

What's your favourite book?
I don't really have the time to read books.

Half-empty or half-full?
I'm an optimistic kind of half-full guy!

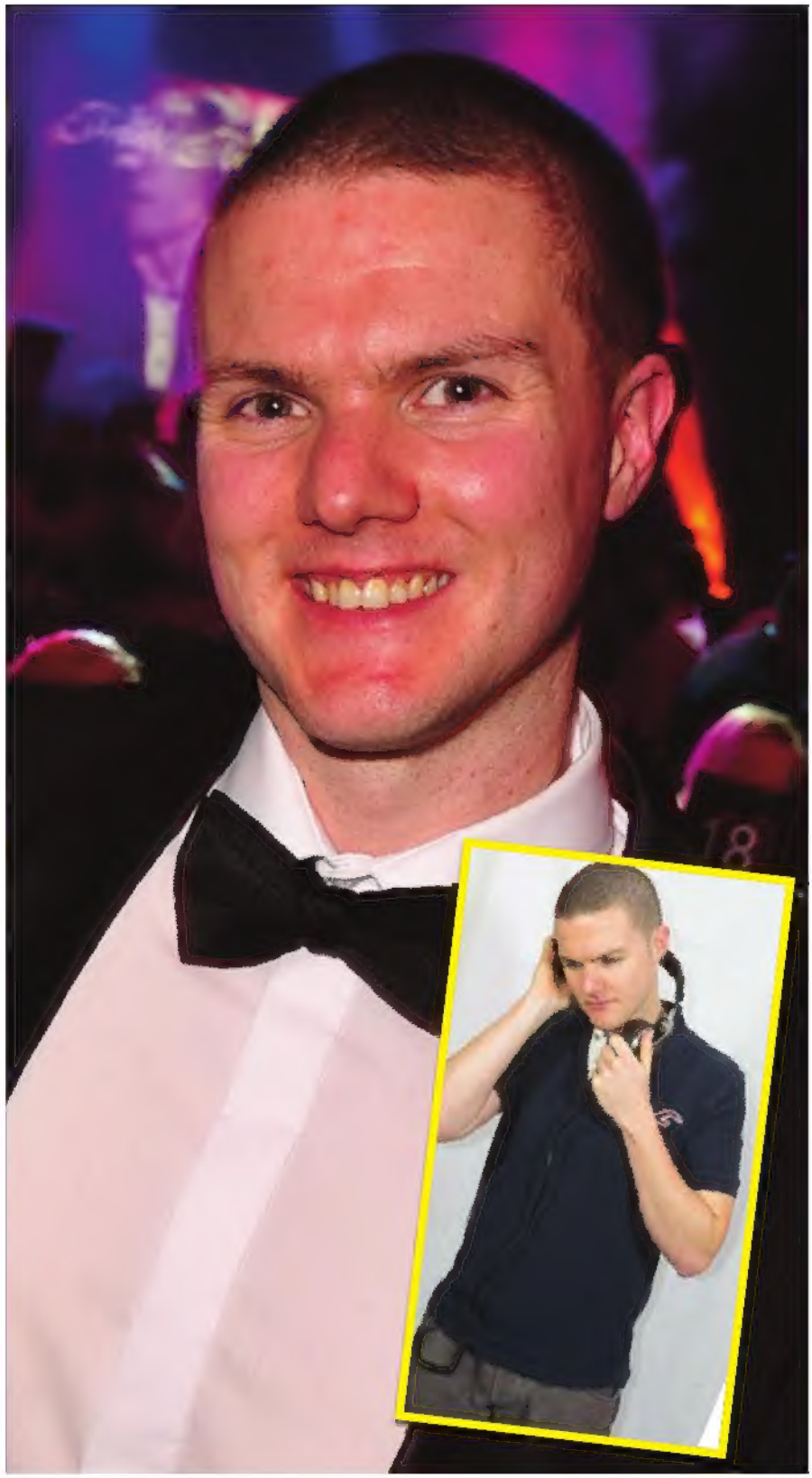
What's your favourite food?
Sushi.

How about your favourite drink?
Caramel Macchiato.

Gaydar or Grindr?
Neither.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?
Lady Gaga.

You can catch Deano spinning the discs at his regular weekly nights at The Village Inn in Birmingham every Wednesday and Sunday and at NG1 in Nottingham every Friday and Saturday



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What's On
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We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

PRIDE BALL The very last Pride Ball hailed a success

The Midlands LGBT community came together late last month for the very last Midlands Zone Pride Ball, with the event hailed a success by not only the event's organisers, but attendees on the night.

The annual event, which was first organised by Martin Monahan and the Midlands Zone team back in 2000, this year supported the theme Equality and Freedom Around the World. The Pride Ball has raised in excess of £100,000 over the years for local LGBT, HIV and AIDS charities, thanks to the support of the fantastic Midlands LGBT community and their friends.

The Pride Ball was held on the eve of the first same-sex marriages, and coupled with a fantastic audience reaction to the emotional opening performance, the event organisers were extremely humbled and overwhelmed by the reaction.

Martin Monahan, event organiser and Editor-in-Chief of Midlands Zone magazine commented: "I'd like to say a massive thanks to everyone involved since that very first Pride Ball event I organised in 2000 - the Midlands Zone team, the host for each event David Nash, all the superb artists that have performed, the event team, the technical team, the ICC for all their support and, of course, all the guests who have attended.

"As the very last Pride Ball from the Midlands Zone team and myself, I couldn't have wished for a better event last night - there was such a great 'community' spirit, and I'm very humbled by everyones lovely comments."

SCENE LGBTs lament the loss of town's gay club

Gay and lesbian people in Cheltenham are lamenting the closure of the town's only gay club.

The Gloucestershire Echo reports: 'Embassy, in Pittville Street, closed its doors for good last Sunday after holding a huge goodbye party on Saturday.

'The club, which had capacity for 400 people, was opened in early 2012 and took over the building previously occupied by a bar called Mbargo.

'Last November, the bar underwent a complete refurbishment and expansion.

'In a message to her customers, owner Sarah Grant wrote: "As many of you know, we have been working behind the scenes to try and arrange a refurbishment or change in our current location, and the possibility of that happening in the near future is now unlikely. We're still looking out for new premises and you'll be the first to know when we get them. For now, though, our building, your little Embassy, will be redeveloped by the landlords soon and the club as we know it will be no more.

'"We've loved serving you and we're doing everything we can to try and ensure Embassy lives on, even if not through a superb new facility (and it has to be world class, you deserve it) perhaps through arranged events in Cheltenham, or even by providing transport to other gay-friendly venues beyond."'

MARRIAGE Long-term partners become first gay couple to marry in Birmingham

Two gay men who've been together for 26 years made history late last month by becoming the first same-sex couple to marry in Birmingham.

Stephen Trinder, 60, from Handsworth, and partner David Henson, 53, from Leamington, tied the knot at the city's registry office at 10am on 29 March, the day gay marriage became legal.

Speaking to the Birmingham Mail after getting married, Stephen said: "it feels absolutely fabulous to be married. I'm so proud to be a Brummie and to make history in my home city that I love so much.

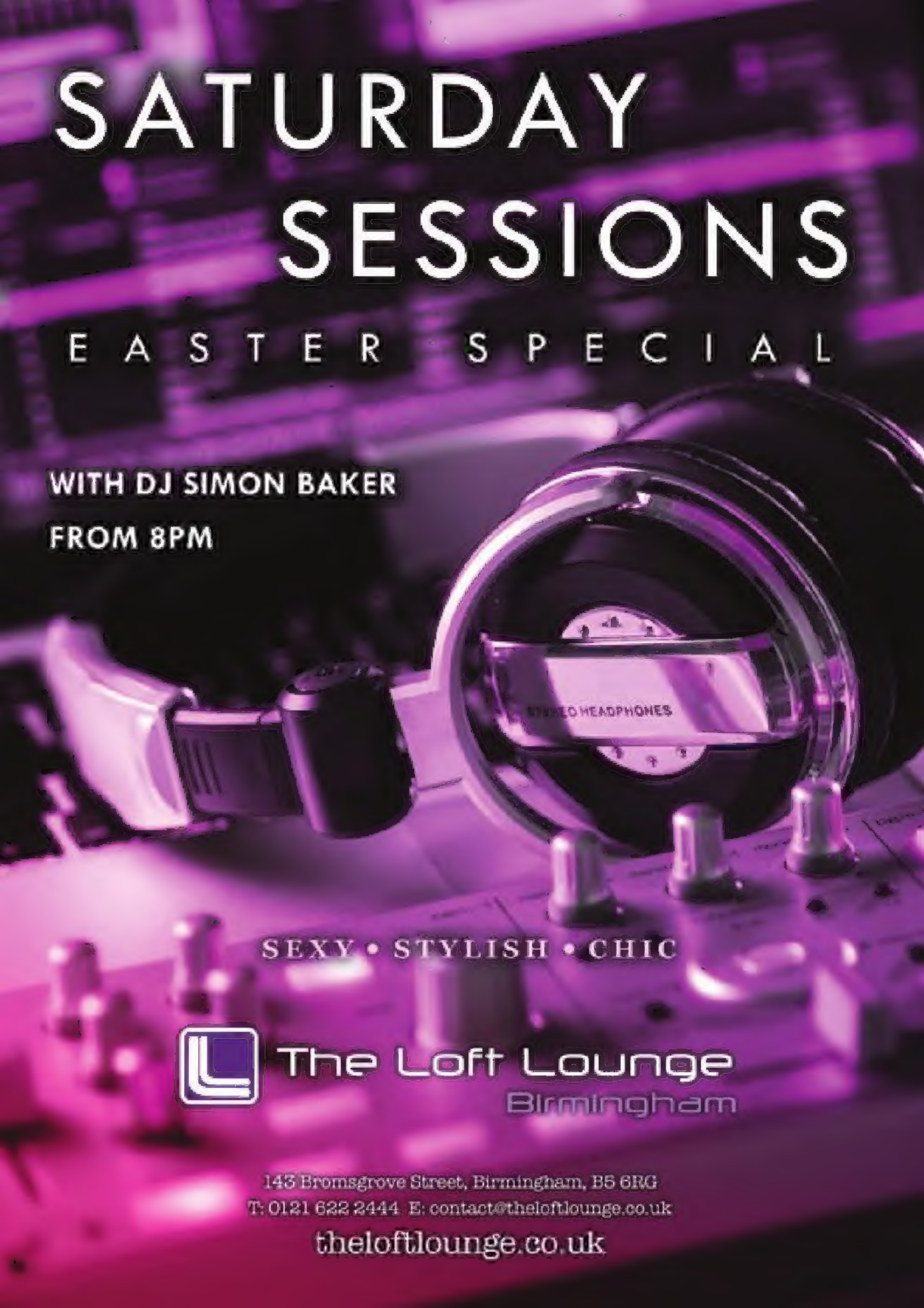
"My great-great-grandfather got married in a register office all that time ago and now I've been able to get married under a new law.

"Birmingham's motto is 'forward' and it's always strived to achieve that.

Image: Birmingham Mail

"I love Birmingham and on a more personal note, I love David. Now we can be ourselves in front of the world every day."

The couple, who first met 30 years ago, followed their wedding ceremony with a sunset cruise along the city's canals before heading off to Portugal on honeymoon.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PRIDE Birmingham Pride announce line-up

Organisers of Birmingham's annual Pride Festival have announced that Connor Maynard and '90s legend Gabrielle will feature among the headlining acts at this year's event, to be held in the city over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May.

Birmingham Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton commented: "As one of the largest Gay Pride events in the UK, we are absolutely delighted to have pulled out all the stops, once again, to present another massive line-up for this year."

He added: "We're expecting a record turnout, attracting people from throughout the UK. There are over 100 artists and DJs performing during the weekend, and there's definitely something for everyone to enjoy."

The Birmingham Pride Festival also features a dance arena, cabaret marquee, funfair and Community Village Green, in addition to a host of community stalls and refreshments.
This year the Carnival Parade, which sets off from Victoria Square at midday on Saturday 24 May, will adopt Equality And Freedom Around The World as its campaigning theme.

Advance Tickets for the festival, which is located in Birmingham's Gay Village in the Southside area of the city, are available online from www.birminghampride.com at a cost of £10 for day tickets and £15 for weekend tickets. Children under 10 get free admission when accompanied by an adult.

RELIGION Shrewsbury bishop in new same-sex marriage controversy

A Midlands bishop has said the reason Catholics oppose gay marriage is not because they want to restrict rights, but because they 'love'.

Gay Star News reports: 'Mark Davies, a Catholic bishop in Shrewsbury, has defended his recent statements on homosexuality, such as comparing it to Nazism.

'His new comments came as England and Wales gay couples, the first in the UK, were preparing to get legally married on 29 March.

"It is often said that there is a prejudicial hate, a sense of discrimination [that] lies behind the teachings of the Church and the Christian understanding of marriage," he told Life Site News. "What we need to always emphasise is that what lies behind this is love - a genuine love for every person. That love very much extends, by the Church, to those who experience same-sex attraction."

'Davies is now saying he will continue to "battle" on in his fight against same-sex marriage. He said: "The essential battle is now for the very foundations of marriage, its identity in the union of man and woman, a lasting union, a union which is open to life and thereby the foundation of the family."

'The bishop was one of the most outspoken critics of same-sex marriage during the fight to get it legalised. Last year, he said the country risked "falling into darkness", leaving people unable to "distinguish between good and evil".

'During his last Christmas sermon, he compared the UK's push for marriage equality to "inhuman ideologies" such as "Nazism and Communism".'

SCENE Man charged with homophobic attack in Birmingham

A Birmingham man has appeared in court after being charged with an allegedly homophobic attempted robbery in Birmingham's gay village in the early hours of Monday 24 March.
Leo Francis, 51, of Bristol Road in Edgbaston, was charged with attempted robbery and possession of an offensive weapon.

After spotting the attack on a camera outside The Village Inn on Hurst Street, Birmingham city centre CCTV police officers dispatched fellow officers immediately. Despite the police arriving within two minutes, passers-by and people who'd been enjoying a night out in the venue had already intervened to protect the 22-year-old victim.
Officers from West Midlands Police arrived to find the suspect unconscious in the street, while members of the public were comforting the man who'd been targeted.
The victim was later taken to hospital with cuts and bruises.

NATIONAL NEWS

RELIGION Church has fully accepted same-sex marriage, says the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury has signalled the end of the church's resistance to same-sex marriage.

PinkNews.co.uk reports: 'Justin Welby told the Guardian: "I think the church has reacted by fully accepting that it's the law, and should react by continuing to demonstrate in word and action, the love of Christ for every human being."

CHARITY Stonewall raises £395,000 at 25th anniversary Equality Dinner

Stonewall last month raised a record-breaking £395,000 at its annual Equality Dinner.

Money raised from the night will support Stonewall's education work and tackling homophobia wherever it exists.

The night marked Stonewall's 25th anniversary, with speeches from presenter, broadcaster and writer Sue Perkins and journalist and Stonewall founder, Matthew Parris. Both emphasised that, while there was much to celebrate, there was still much to do.

POLITICS Institute to be named after gay World War Two codebreaker Turing

An institute is to be set up which will be named after gay computer pioneer and codebreaker Alan Turing, the chancellor last month announced in his Budget speech.

BBC News reports: 'The Alan Turing Institute will focus on new ways of collecting, organising and analysing large sets of data - commonly known as big data. The government will provide £42million over five years for the project. Universities and other interested parties will be able to bid for the funding to set up the institute.

'Turing received a posthumous royal pardon last year, following a conviction for homosexual activity.'

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GALAXY

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For more info

info@galaxyyouth.co.uk
0300 123 0970

Over 18
Gaylife Staffordshire-Stoke

Under 18
Gay Galaxyyouth Centre

IT'S GONE VIRAL! What we've been looking at on the web...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

Ones to watch - the best videos...

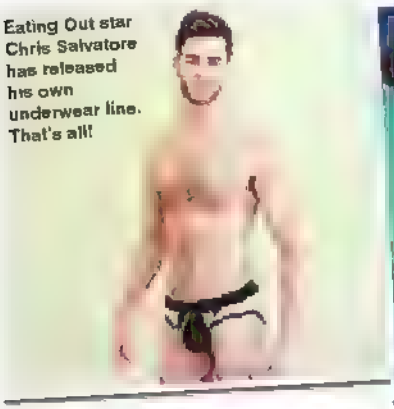
Gay strangers kiss

Following on from the original First Kiss film - featuring twenty straight and gay strangers kissing for the first time - this video is an affectionate and adorable recreation using only gay males. A must-watch! youtu.be/961ewb47F9U

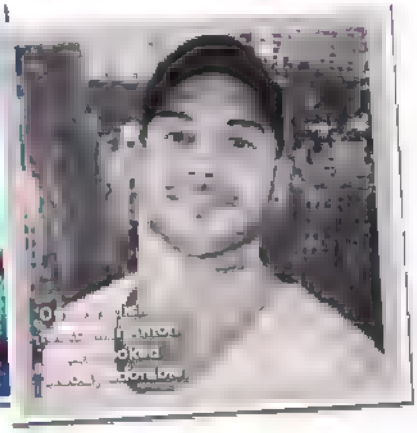
I Have A Dream, Too

A gay Japanese student's coming out video went viral last month. The 17-year-old delivered a heartfelt, touching and passionate speech about himself and others around the world in a film entitled 'I Have A Dream, Too'. youtu.be/-8Dta7KArq8

Our top three Instagram snaps!



Eating Out star Chris Salvatore has released his own underwear line. That's all!



The UK's first same-sex marriage!

42 of the most unforgettable moments

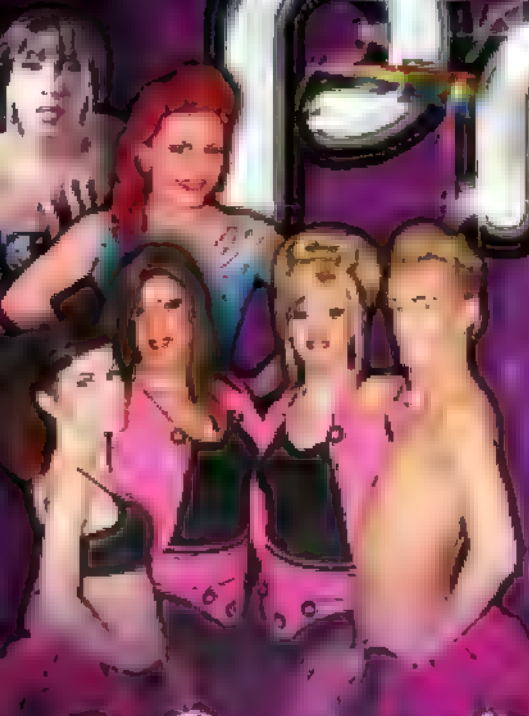
At the stroke of midnight on Saturday 29 March, UK same-sex couples were officially allowed to tie the knot. The first couple to do so in England and Wales were Peter McGraith and David Cabreza. BuzzFeed (one of our favourite websites, we'll have you know!) have listed the 42 most unforgettable moments from their wedding. We're delighted we've finally reached this stage, so check out the post for some truly adorable images of the boys walking down the aisle! bzfd.it/1mD7C8m

WALSALL'S VERY OWN

FRIDAY 9TH MAY

7pm Arrivals

Pride Ball



3 Course Meal at Arbor Lights

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BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

Celebrating Equality & Freedom Around The World

SAT 24 & SUN 25 MAY - SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

After last year's massively successful Birmingham Pride, the city is gearing up for the 2014 event, which takes place over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May.

This year, Pride is celebrating Equality And Freedom Around The World - and there's no better time to do so, following the recent introduction of anti-gay laws in Russia, Uganda and Nigeria.

Birmingham Pride aims to raise awareness of these horrendous homophobic laws, and to show the rest of the world that we're standing shoulder to shoulder with the many persecuted LGBT communities across the globe, no matter which country they're in.

The weekend-long festival kicks off with a Carnival Parade, starting in Victoria Square at 12pm on the 24th. LGBT and Human Rights campaigner Peter Tatchell will launch the colourful procession.

Popular acts who'll be appearing at Pride across the weekend include Connor Maynard, Gabrielle and Eternia.

ADVANCE DAY TICKETS £10
WEEKEND TICKETS £15 WHILE STOCKS LAST!

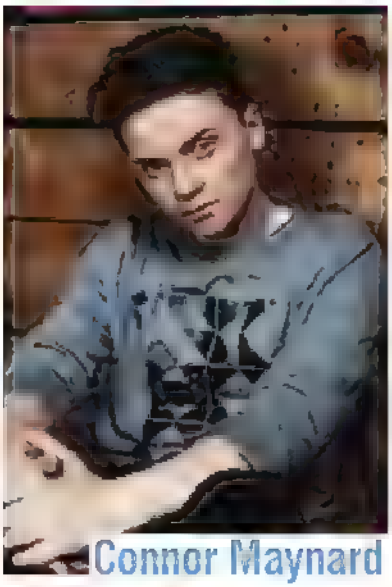
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM GAY VENUES AND www.birminghampride.com

CHILDREN UNDER 10 GET FREE ENTRY WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A WRISTBANDED PARENT/GUARDIAN

FEATURING

ACTS ANNOUNCED SO FAR...

Plus over 100 acts and DJs across the weekend

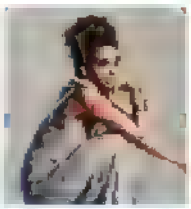

Connor Maynard

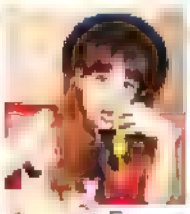
Gabrielle

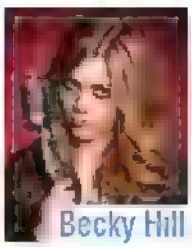
Eternal

Fuse ODG

Elyar Fox

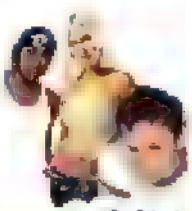

Ms Dynamite

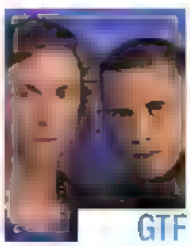

Foxes


Becky Hill

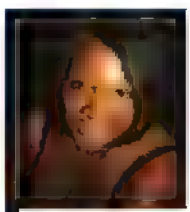
Artful Dodger

Stooshe


S Club


GTF

Joseph Whelan


Angie Brown

"I love the gays, Chris and Stephen. And I think Leon and June are the bomb, I rate them"

GOING GAGA FOR GOGGLEBOX

Sandy and Sandra spill the beans...

Hit Channel 4 show Gogglebox returned to our screens last month, featuring pissed-up posh couple Steph and Dom, gay friends Stephen and Chris, Liverpudlian OAPs Leon and June, and the Carr family from Birmingham. Then there's Brixton pals Sandy (left) and Sandra (right). We chatted to the girls about their time on the show, their favourite TV series and that infamous Pot Noodle cup...

Sandra says...

Which are your favourite TV programmes?

I have to watch the soaps. EastEnders Coronat on Street and Emmerdale are a must I love watching Come D ne With Me because I like seeing all the food they cook. It makes me hungry watching it! If I was on Come Dine With Me, I would cook a good English fry-up - sausage bacon, burger mushrooms, beans and toast. For pudding, it would be apple crumble. I'm more of an English cook, rather than nice and peas

You've known each other for a long time - have you always enjoyed watching lots of TV together?

Yes, always. We've known each other for forty years, and have been best friends for the last ten. We've always enjoyed nights in together in front of the telly with a takeaway

Do you ever argue about what to watch on TV?

No, we never argue. We like watching the same thing - anything where we can find out scandal and gossip. Emmerdale, Coronation Street and EastEnders. I cried so much when Hayley died

When and why did you start drinking from a Pot Noodle pot?

Why do I drink out of a Pot Noodle pot? Well, it's my style and it makes me feel at home. Over the years I've smashed a few glasses so it's much safer with my Pot Noodle cup

Do you get recognised when you're out and about? Is it still a shock when it happens?

When I go out in Brixton, people recognise me. They want to know when we're coming back on the TV, and they want to know what we think of what's on telly at the moment Every time someone stops me it's still a shock, though I'm just Sandra from Brixton, so why do they want to talk to me? I love meeting new peop e and hearing what they think of the show They love that we're so [illegible] it real

Do you watch the show when it's broadcast? If so, is it strange seeing yourself on TV?

I always watch the show. I love it. I always shudder when I see myself, I forget about the cameras being there, so I forget what I've said about the programmes. It's very weird to see myself

Who are your favourite other Gogglebox participants?

I like them all It's one b g Gogglebox family across the country

I love the gays, Chris and Stephen. And I think Leon and June are the bomb. I like them ke that June is in charge. I would love to be just like them when I'm old and grey

I also love the two guys with the boobs behind their head. They're really clever, they take their time and they know what they're saying

Sandy says...

Which are your favourite TV programmes?

I loved Benidorm last month. I want to go there on holiday. It's so funny especially the woman in the mob ity scooter. It makes me laugh and makes me happy Did you see it with Rusty Lee in it? That was so funny Dinner Dates and Come Dine With Me also. I like it when people can't cook, and the people that cheat and use the microwave. If I was on [illegible] cabbage and rice.

You've known each other for a long time - have you always enjoyed watching lots of TV together?

We met through my mum, and have known each other for over forty years. We've always enjoyed girly nights in - and out. Sandra makes me laugh so much. We have banter we enjoy ourselves and laugh a lot

Do you ever argue about what to watch on TV?

We never argue. I will watch whatever she wants; we have the same taste. She doesn't really like the gory hospital stuff, but she'll still watch it with me.

Do you get recognised when you're out and about? Is it still a shock when it happens?

Yes! I get recognised everywhere, people telling us to keep it real and keep on doing what we're doing It happens even more when we're out together Everyone is loving it; they always want to know when it's back on, I love it, and love meeting new people. It's everyone regardless of whether they're old, young or a different race It's amazing. Everyone is so nice to us. There's a lot of love for the show and certainly no hate. We're real, and we keep it real and tell it as it is. If we don't keep it rea., then Gogglebox won't Gogglebox

Do you watch the show when it's broadcast? If so, is it strange seeing yourself on TV?

Yes we crack up laughing. Queen Bee runs out of the room. Normally, we've forgotten what we've said, but we never regret saying anything.

Who are your favourite other Gogglebox participants?

We love, love love Leon and June, and the gay boys Leon really makes us laugh he tells it how it is, and he loves his wife so much. I love him talking about his pot [illegible] manage how many crackers he can have she can never take them all away from him

"WHY DO I DRINK OUT OF A POT NOODLE POT? WELL, IT'S MY STYLE AND IT MAKES ME FEEL AT HOME"

Series three of Gogglebox airs on Channel 4 every Friday night at 9pm until 25 Apr. You can follow Sandra and Sandy on Twitter via @SandraGogglebox

And YOUR winners are...

With a record-breaking number of votes cast - all of which were counted and independently verified - we can now reveal the results of the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards 2014.

The presentation of the awards took place at the very last Pride Ball, at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham on Friday 28 March. Over the next few pages you can check out the winners, each pictured with hot and hunky X Factor star Joseph Whelan, as well as the breakdown of the voting in each category. Congratulations to all nominees - and, of course, to the winners - for all their hard work!

Lifetime LGBT Achievement Award

MICHAEL CASHMAN MEP

For his career in politics and his dedication in campaigning for equality in the LGBT community.

KELVIN BATES

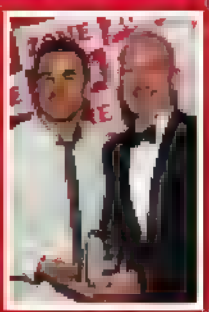
For serving Birmingham's gay scene over the last 15 years, providing security at almost every gay venue in the city, including Bar Jester, Missing, The Nightingale, XL's, The Loft Lounge and The Village Inn, to name but a few.

Beva, from More Secure, accepted the award on behalf of Kelvin.

Outstanding LGBT Contribution Award

BIRMINGHAM LGBT [illegible]

For providing the LGBT Centre for Birmingham's [illegible]



STEVE BEDSER [illegible]

For the active role he's played in helping to develop Birmingham's LGBT scene

Best Midlands LGBT Event

WINNER

■ Pride In Sport	33%

Other Top 5 Nominees

SHOUT Festival	30%
L Fest	22%
Pink Picnic	9%
Rainbow Film Festival	6%

Best Midlands Pride Event

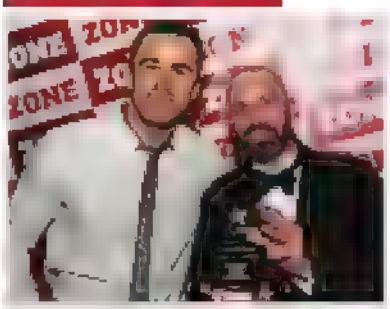
WINNER

■ Birmingham Pride	71%

Other Top 5 Nominees

Leicester Pride	12%
Nottinghamshire Pride	7%
Stoke Pride	6%
Wolverhampton Pride	4%

Best Retail/Online Store



WINNER

■ Clone Zone	29%

Other Top 5 Nominees

Prowler	27%
Tesco Express (Hurst Street)	21%
Harvey Nichols	12%
Selfridges	11%

Best Sauna/Health Club

WINNER
- The Greenhouse - Darlaston 33%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Unit 2 - Birmingham 29%
- CS2 - Nottingham 14%
- Spartan - Birmingham 13%
- Heroes - Stourbridge 11%

Best Venue for Men

WINNER
- Eden - Birmingham 27%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Boltz Club - Birmingham 25%
- The Fountain - Birmingham 22%
- The Nightingale - Birmingham 17%
- Missing - Birmingham 9%

Best Venue for Women

WINNER
- The Fox - Birmingham 29%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- The Factory - Stoke-On-Trent 26%
- The Nightingale - Birmingham 23%
- Sidewalk - Birmingham 13%
- The Village Inn - Birmingham 9%

Best Café Bar/Restaurant

WINNER
- The Loft Lounge - Birmingham 31%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Sidewalk - Birmingham 28%
- The Peach Tree - Shrewsbury 15%
- Equator - Birmingham 13%
- Rainbow & Dove - Leicester 13%

Best Community Venue

WINNER
- Eden - Birmingham 26%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Equator - Birmingham 22%
- The Wellington - Birmingham 19%
- Dover Castle - Leicester 18%
- Missing - Birmingham 15%

Best Outdoor Area

WINNER
- The Loft Lounge - Birmingham 24%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Eden - Birmingham 21%
- The Fox - Birmingham 20%
- The Lion - Walsall 18%
- Rainbow & Dove - Leicester 17%

Best Security Team

WINNER
- The Nightingale - Birmingham 27%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Eden - Birmingham 24%
- Sidewalk - Birmingham 22%
- The Factory - Stoke-On-Trent 16%
- Missing - Birmingham 11%

Best Front of House Team

WINNER
- Eden - Birmingham 41%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Missing - Birmingham 21%
- Equator - Birmingham 17%
- The Loft Lounge - Birmingham 13%
- The Nightingale - Birmingham 8%

Best New/Refurbished Venue

WINNER
- LGBT Centre - Birmingham 61%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Eden - Birmingham 14%
- Bossa - Leicester 11%
- DV8 - Birmingham 9%
- Prowler - Birmingham 5%

Best Live Entertainment Venue

WINNER
- The Nightingale - Birmingham 41%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- The Village Inn - Birmingham 39%
- Eden - Birmingham 12%
- The Factory - Stoke-On-Trent 5%
- The White Hart - Wolverhampton 3%

Best Midlands One-Nighter

WINNER
- XXL @ The Core 32%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Big Saturday Night Out @ Nightingale 21%
- So It Goes @ Club Chic 17%
- Lip Gloss @ Eden 16%
- BearBrum @ Eden 15%

Best Midlands Gay Bar

WINNER
- The Lion - Walsall 31%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Dover Castle - Leicester 24%
- Pink - Stoke-On-Trent 23%
- Rainbows - Coventry 15%
- The White Hart - Wolverhampton 6%

Best Birmingham Gay Bar

WINNER
- Eden 32%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- The Village Inn 29%
- Missing 17%
- Sidewalk 14%
- Equator 8%

Best Midlands Gay Club

WINNER
- Gorgeous - Wolverhampton 27%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- The Factory - Stoke-On-Trent 25%
- Helsinki - Leicester 24%
- The Lion - Walsall 21%
- NG1 - Nottingham 3%

Best Birmingham Gay Club

WINNER
- The Nightingale 72%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Club Chic 12%
- Bar Jester 11%
- The Core 3%
- DV8 2%

Best Midlands Overall Venue

WINNER
- The Factory - Stoke-On-Trent 25%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Gorgeous - Wolverhampton 21%
- Dover Castle - Leicester 20%
- The Lion - Walsall 18%
- NG1 - Nottingham 16%

Best Birmingham Overall Gay Venue

WINNER
- The Nightingale 52%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Eden 21%
- The Village Inn 14%
- Club Chic 7%
- Missing 6%

Best Charity or Group of Achievement

WINNER
- Birmingham LGBT 71%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Healthy Gay Life 14%
- LGBT Network Wolverhampton 7%
- AB+ 5%
- Freshwinds 3%

Best LGBT Sport or Social Group

WINNER
- Birmingham Bulls RFC 26%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Birmingham Blaze FC 22%
- Rainbow Voices 21%
- Acting Out 17%
- Leicester Wildecats 14%

Best Front of House Person

WINNER
- Garry Prentice - Eden 51%

Other Top 5 Nominees:
- Max Baker - The Factory 18%
- David Morris - The Nightingale 16%
- Ollie Betts - Missing 15%
- Tom Jenkins - The Nightingale 11%

Best Venue Security Person

WINNER
- Kelvin Bates - The Nightingale 31%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Stuart Roberts - Eden 23%
- Mark Smith - Sidewalk 21%
- Sam Owen - The Factory 18%
- Wayne Millwood - The White Hart 7%

Best Bar DJ

WINNER
- Mykee Mackenzie - Missing 27%

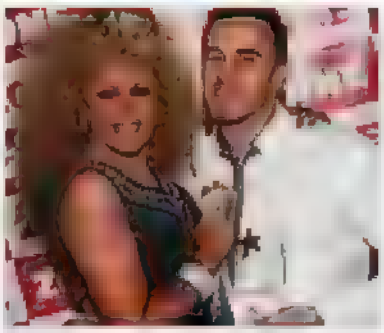
Other Top 5 Nominees:
- Dan Williams - Eden 26%
- Deano Trickett - The Village Inn 24%
- Richard Moon - The Village Inn 19%
- Rob Lambeth - Dover Castle 4%

Best Club DJ

WINNER
- Simon Baker - The Nightingale 32%

Other Top 5 Nominees:
- Corey Hadley - The Nightingale 31%
- Clinton Shawe - Club Chic 23%
- Destiny Dyson - The Factory 8%
- Rob Lambeth - Helsinki 6%

Best Compere/Host



WINNER
- Marty Smith 46%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Twiggy 18%
- Charlotte the Harlotte 16%
- Miss Penny 12%
- Divina De Campo 8%

Best Cabaret Act

WINNER
- Miss Penny 27%

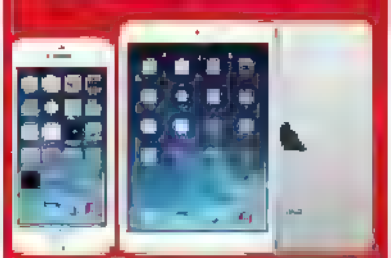
Other Top 5 Nominees
- Glitter Lips 22%
- Vicky Jackson 21%
- Sandra 16%
- Marty Smith 14%

Scene Personality of the Year

WINNER
- Lawrence Barton 32%

Other Top 5 Nominees
- Garry Prentice 22%
- Steph Keeble 21%
- Tilly 16%
- Marc Richardson 9%

And the winner is...



We'd like to thank everyone who voted in the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards 2014, and also those who completed our Readership Survey. The winner of the iPhone 5S and iPad Air is

Tony Colston

The Pride Ball bows out with a bang!

Last month saw the very last Midlands Zone Pride Ball take place at Birmingham's prestigious International Convention Centre.

The Ball paid special tribute to ex-EastEnders star Michael Cashman MEP, not only for his hard work in politics, but also for his tireless efforts in campaigning for LGBT equality throughout the years.

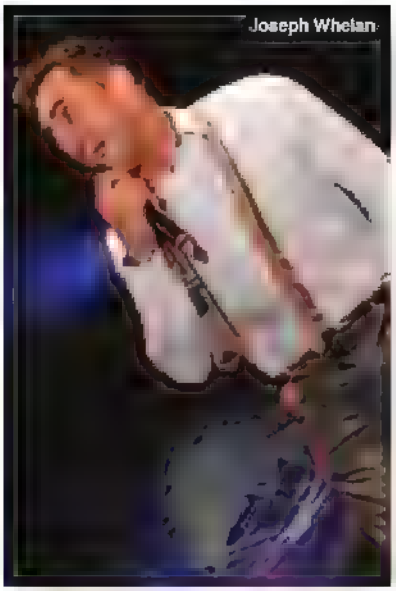
The event was packed with entertainment, including an emotional opening performance which carried the message of 'Equality and Freedom Around the World'. It featured West End stars Ian Stroughair, Chris Key, Lucy Key and Alison Jiear together with the Key Theatre Academy, as well as a guest performance from Twiggy and Rainbow Voices.

The night was brought to a close by performances from Spanish Eurovision hopeful Ruth Lorenzo and X Factor hunk Joseph Whelan. Alison Jiear returned to the stage to sing gay anthem I Just Wanna Dance. And for the first time on stage together, Miss Penny, Marty, Glitter Lips and Sandra performing We Are Family.

The Ball also played host to the annual Midlands Zone Readers' Awards, which acknowledge the contributions made to Midlands gay life by the region's LGBT venues, people, charities and organisations. Michael Cashman MEP received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Ball was hailed a huge success by attendees and organisers alike, with everybody having a great time while in the process supporting a strong and important message about equality.

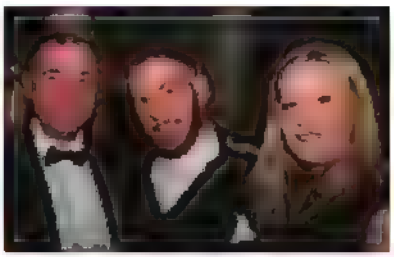
Alison Jiear


Joseph Whelan

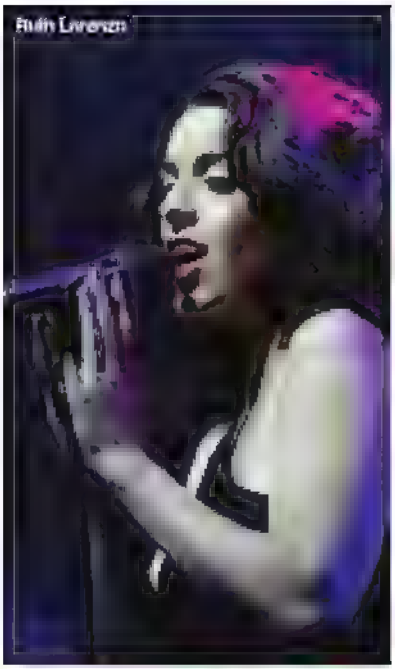
Lucy Key & The Key Theatre Academy

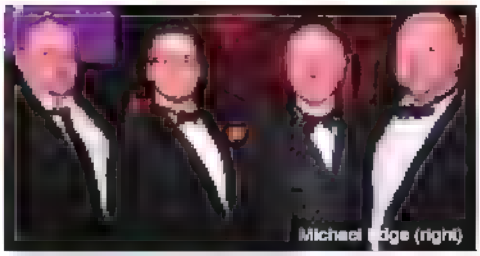
Michael Cashman MEP and Corrie's Michelle Collins

Pam Catz, Marty & Miss Penny



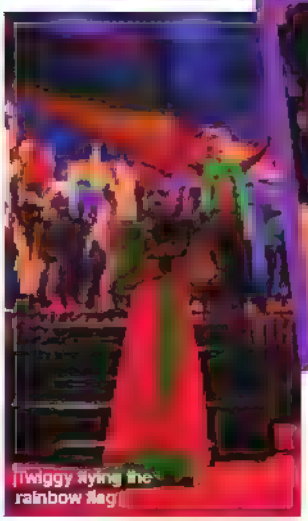
A spectacular end to the opening performance

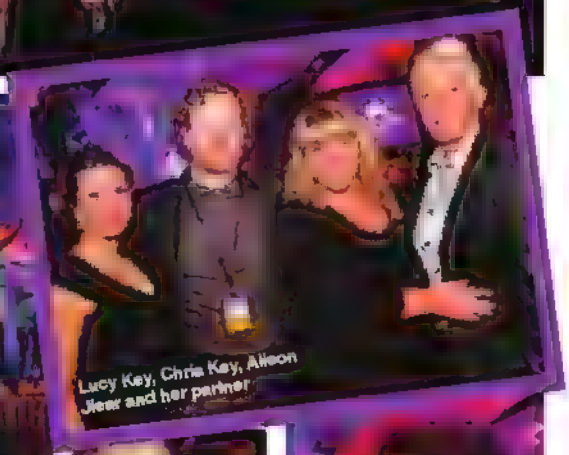

Ruth Lorenzo

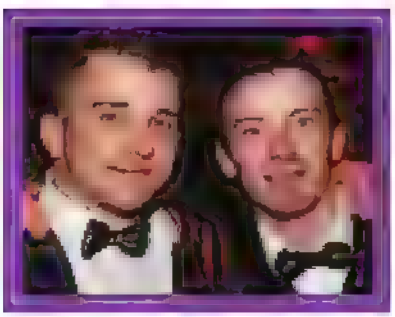

Michael Ridge (right)

Eden Bar

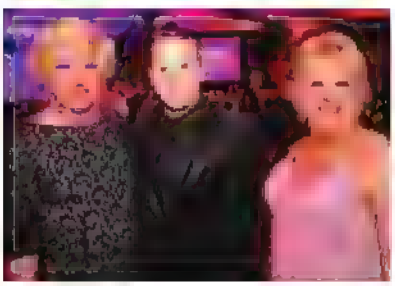
David Dimbil (third left)

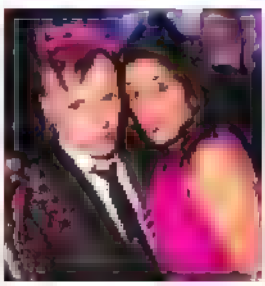

Twiggy flying the rainbow flag


Lucy Key, Chris Key, Alison Jiear and her partner



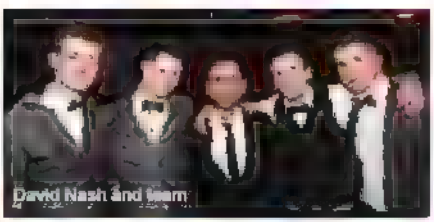
Divina De Campo



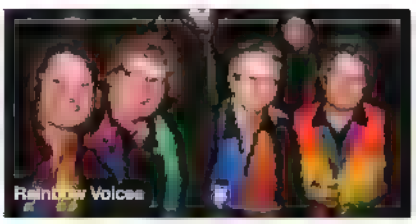


Tilly, Miss Penny, Sandra, Marty and Pam Catz in a Midlands drag spectacular during the finale.

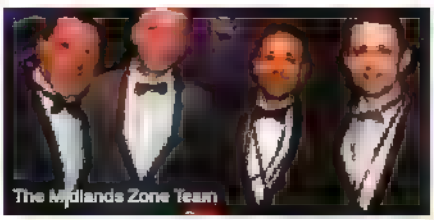
and Garry
m Eden Bar



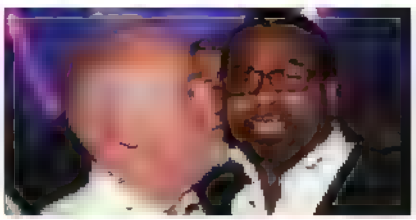
David Nash and team



Rainbow Voices

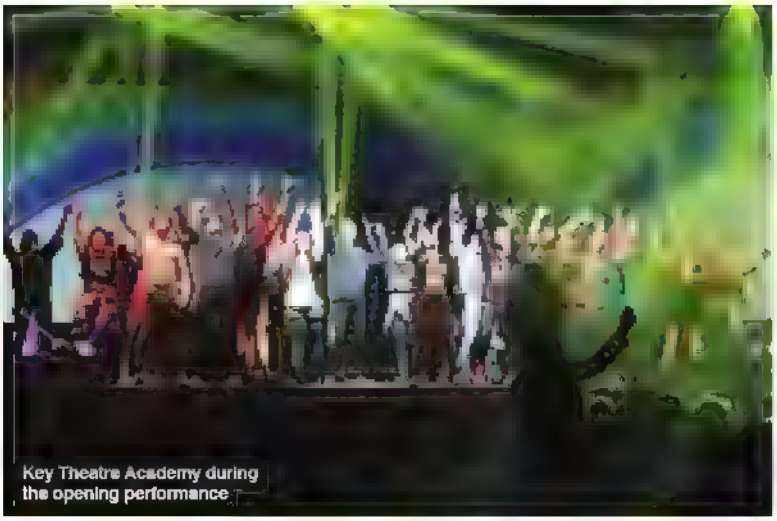


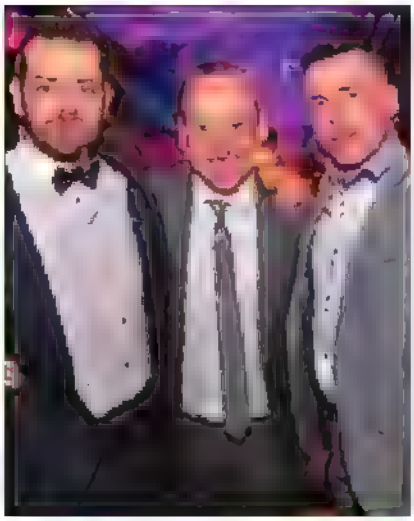
The Midlands Zone Team



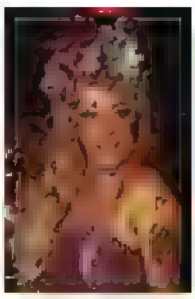
Hard-hitting scenes during the opening performance

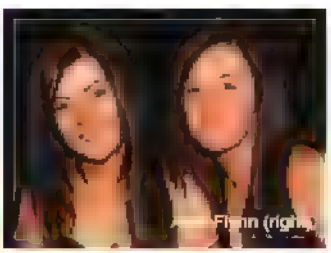
Ian Stroughair

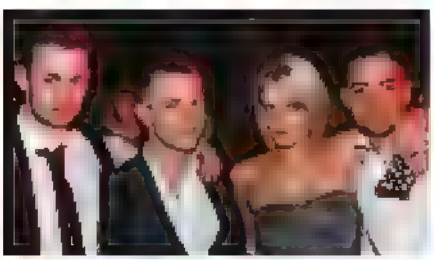

Key Theatre Academy during the opening performance

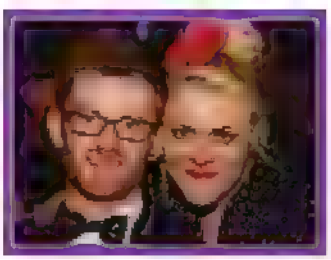


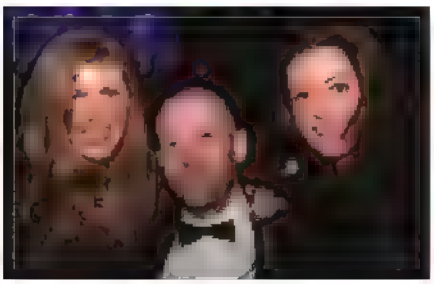
The What's On team and guests

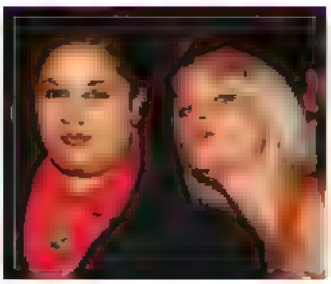


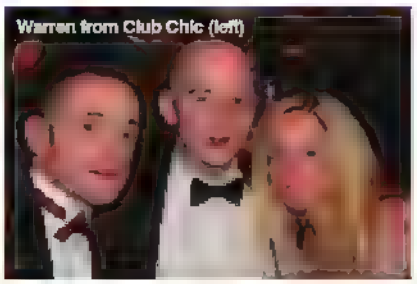

Flynn (right)

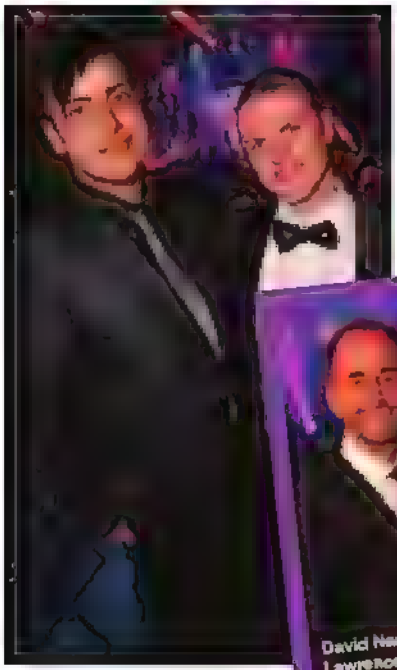




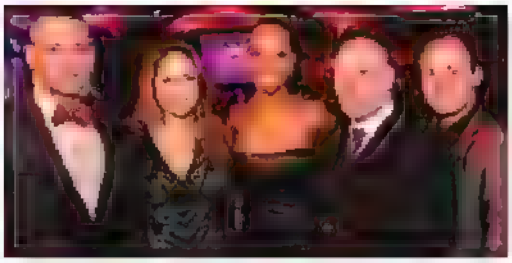


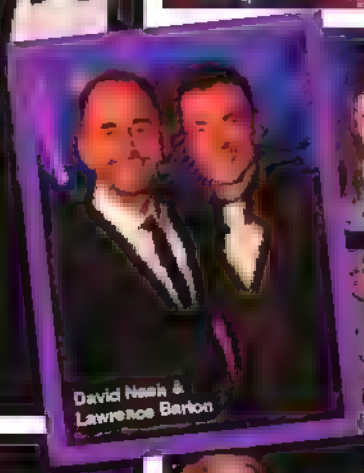



Warren from Club Chic (left)

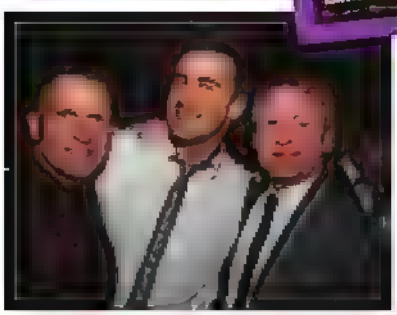


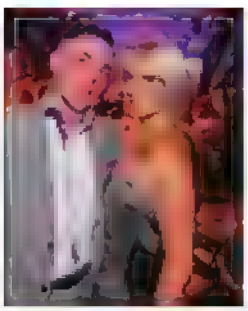
Glitter Lips

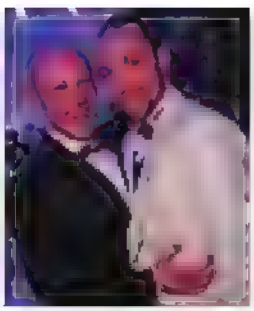



David Nash & Lawrence Barton

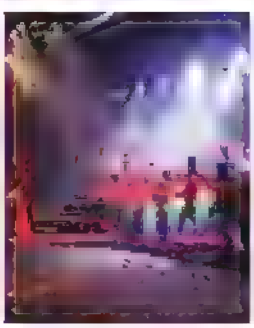
Key Theatre Academy

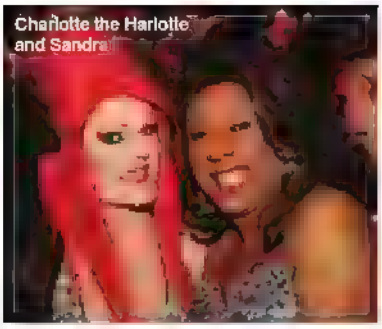


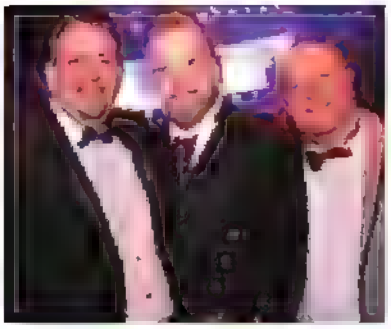


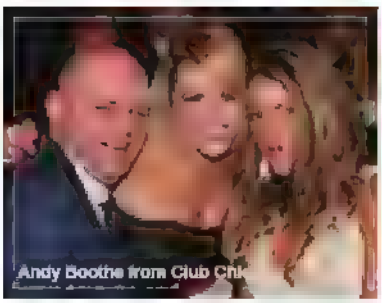


Crowds pack the dance floor



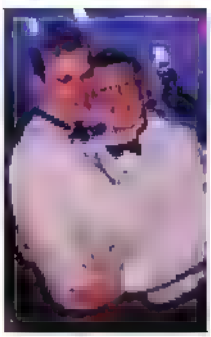

Charlotte the Harlotte and Sandra

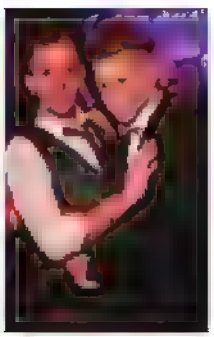



Andy Boothe from Club Chi

Gay Flag during the Opening Performance

The Pride Ball at The ICC





Glitter Lips

DJ Corey (right)

Event photography by Clive Padden and Laura Byrne

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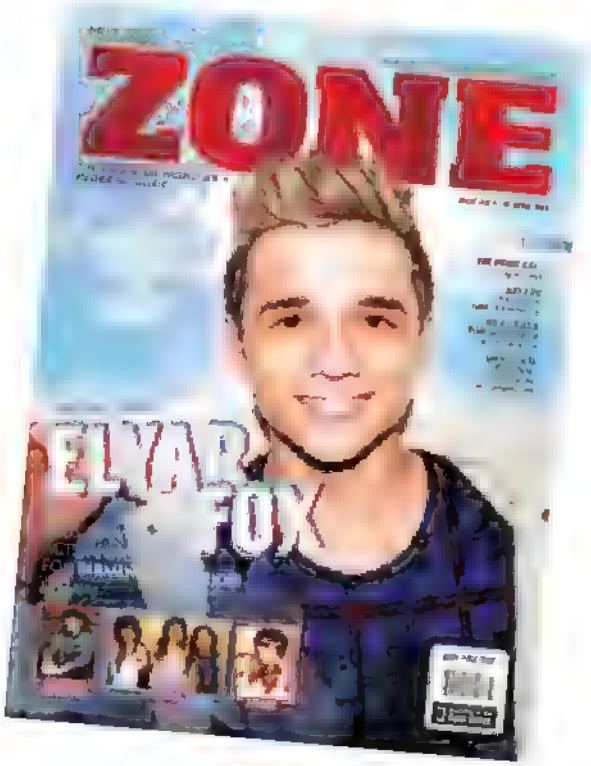

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Say I Do

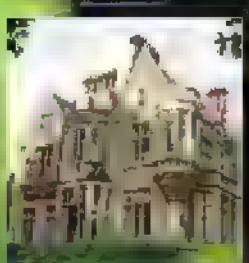
OUR GUIDE TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

INSIDE...

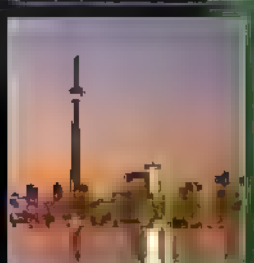
A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR JOURNEY

WHAT TO BUDGET FOR YOUR WEDDING

FINDING THE RIGHT VENUE



OUR TOP 3 HONEY-MOON DESTINATIONS



A brief history of same-sex marriage

Learn how we finally won the right to marry...

As from late last month, gay men and women can now walk down the aisle, get married and legally call each other husband and husband, or wife and wife. But it's taken a long time and a lot of effort to achieve marriage equality

Introduction to the House of Commons

Civil Partnerships became enshrined in law in 2005 and were a way for same-sex couples to be legally recognised - but it wasn't until 24 January 2013 that the government took the prospect of same-sex marriages seriously. It was on that day that Maria Miller MP introduced the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Bill.

The Bill set out the necessary legislation to extend the legal form of marriage to same-sex couples.

Second Reading

On Tuesday 5 February 2013, the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill received its Second Reading in the House of Commons. This marked the first time that Members of Parliament (MPs) were able to discuss the new Bill in detail and vote on proposals. On that day, MPs voted overwhelmingly - by 400 to 175 - in favour of marriage equality.

Bill Committee

The Bill moved forward in the House of Commons, proceeding to the Bill Committee on Tuesday 12 February. The first stage of the Bill Committee allowed individuals and organisations to give evidence and opinions about the Bill. Many people stepped up to do this, one of whom was former Stonewall Chief Executive Ben Summerskill.

The second stage of the Bill Committee allowed MPs to take a look at the proposals in greater detail. Allowing MPs the further opportunity to discuss and amend specific clauses of the Bill, the Report stage took place on 20 and 21 May 2013, when a number of wrecking amendments were proposed and debated.

Report Stage

At the end of the first day of the Report stage, the House of Commons rejected, by 375 votes to 70, an amendment designed to wreck the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill. The amendment, tabled by opponents of equality would have resulted in massive delays to the Bill's implementation.

Third Reading

The Third Reading took place on 21 May 2013 and gave MPs the opportunity to debate the Bill as a whole. The Bill passed its Third Reading vote in the House of Commons, free from any wrecking amendments, by 366 votes to 161.

Second Reading in the House of Lords

The Bill received its Second Reading in the House of Lords on 3 and 4 June 2013. During this stage of debates, loving and committed same-sex relationships were likened by some opponents to incest and bigamy. Lord Dear proposed a motion that would essentially have killed the Bill. On 4 June 2013, Lord Dear's motion was defeated by 390 votes to 148 (a majority of 242).

Committee Stage

The Bill received comprehensive scrutiny during three full days of Committee debate in the House of Lords. Opponents of equality looked to rename 'same-sex marriage' as 'civil union', and to allow teachers to choose not to teach lessons on the subject. They also wished to make it law that, should they wish, public servants could refuse to serve gay people. Thankfully, these proposed changes didn't make it through.

Report Stage

Upon entering the Report Stage in the House of Lords, many amendments to the Bill were suggested. These included creating two categories of marriage (one for opposite-sex couples and one for same-sex couples), and a 'Son of Section 28' amendment that would have 'protected' teachers from 'endorsing' or 'promoting' same-sex marriage in schools. There was also an amendment that asked for evidence-based guidance to be sent to schools on the implications of same-sex marriage 'in terms of children'.

Third Reading

The Third Reading, the final stage in the House of Lords, took place on Monday 15 July 2013. The Bill was approved by peers and returned to the House of Commons for MPs to approve amendments laid in the House of Lords. Once both MPs and Members of the House of Lords had agreed, the Bill was sent for Royal Assent.

Royal Assent

On Wednesday 17 July, The Queen's Royal Assent was granted to the Bill, turning it into the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act. This happened after the Bill had cleared the final stage in Parliament, a two-hour debate and the introduction of government amendments.

Let's get married!

At the stroke of midnight on Saturday 29 March 2014, same-sex marriage came into effect, allowing gay men and women to marry each other.

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Making your big day special

From budgeting to finding inspiration, here's our mini-guide...

Figuring out your budget...

You've planned your big day - but can you afford it? After all, the average wedding costs about £10,000! Work out what's most important to you - whether it's lots of flowers, fireworks at the reception or arriving in a horse-drawn carriage. Whatever it is, it all costs money, so setting a budget and being realistic is pretty much a must-do! Here's what you should bear in mind when planning your wedding ..

The ceremony

Th nk about where you're getting married, the cost of the reg strar and the marriage licence.

The reception

The time to ce ebrate your recent union is always an amazing moment, so think about the cost of venue hire, food for every guest, pre-or-arrival dr nks, a cake and decorations.

What to wear

Looking great for your big day is a must! Factor into your budget suits or dresses, shoes, any accessories you might wear and your hair and makeup. This is an event that wi be cherished forever, so make sure you look your very best!

Transport

Think about what you ll need to get your entire wedding party to the ceremony and then from the ceremony to the reception. Consider a sma coach or shutt e bus.

Gifts

It s your big day, so surely you should be the ones receiving the gifts, right? Wrong! Think of all the hard work that your Best Men or Bridesmaids have done for you. Then there s your parents and your new in-laws to th nk about.

Rings

No marriage is comp ete without something to

join you together so make sure you budget for a nice pair of r ngs. These are what wi l keep you connected when you're apart.

Flowers

There are lots of flowers at a wedding, so you'll need a few hundred pounds for this! There are bouquets for the brides and bridesma ds, table decorations and of course button holes.

Entertainment

If you want music whilst you re tying the knot, or a band and DJ at the reception, this can be qu te costly. Make sure they supply their own sound system if the venue doesn't provide it, as that's another cost to th nk about.

Photography

It s your big day, and the happiest of your life, so you'll want to document it. Photographers can be pretty expensive, so choose a decent one and try to negotiate an equally decent price. Many are willing to travel too, and some even offer free pre-wedding shoots.

Stationery

One thing a lot of peop e tend to forget about is the cost of personalised invitations, RSVP cards and 'thank you' cards not to mention the postage for it all! A nice touch is to get a guest book for your friends and family to sign on the b g day too.

Looking for inspiration?

So you've found your husband or wife-to-be, popped the question, got a 'yes' and maybe set a date. Now what? If you're stuck for inspiration, pop along to the Gay Wedding Show and see what's on offer for your big day!

Now in its 11th year of connecting same-sex couples with venues and wedding suppl ers, the Gay Wedd ng Show is the longest running event that specifically targets the LGBT market.

From where to get married through to the hiring of photographers and musicians, the show wi l give you a good idea about what you need and how much it s going to set you back.

This year's shows take place in Glasgow on Sunday 18 May; Newcastle on Sunday 20 July, Cardiff on Sunday 28 September Manchester on Sunday 12 October and Br ghton on Sunday 26 October.

For more information and to get tickets, visit www.gaywedd ngshow.co.uk

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It's time to celebrate!

Choose the perfect venue for your ceremony and reception

The Elgar Room

Council House, Malvern

For that very special ceremony, why not book The Elgar Room?
Malvern's Council House still retains many of its original features - from the ornate main entrance, with its spires and gargoyles, to the wood-panelled lobby and hall.
The grand staircase, with its griffins, leads up to a large, colourful stained-glass window - a must for your photographs.
The Elgar Room has been refurbished to preserve and enhance its Victorian features.

For more information, visit **www.malvernhills.gov.uk**

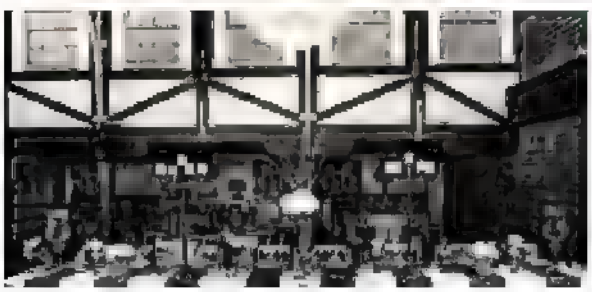
The Penthouse and The Loft Lounge

Southside, Birmingham

If you want to host your wedding reception close to Birmingham's gay village, consider The Loft Lounge and The Penthouse.
Unique and stylish, The Loft Lounge and The Penthouse is an ideal choice, making your special day one to remember for you, your partner and your guests. Set in the heart of Birmingham's gay village, the venue offers private rooms, a garden and courtyard area - all fully licensed for a legal binding. If you've already said your vows elsewhere, The Loft Lounge and The Penthouse is a great place to host your afternoon dinner or reception party. As an award-winning food venue, it'll cook up a storm for you and your guests.

There'll be plenty of room for any entertainment you've hired too, whether it be a full live band or a DJ, and the venue comes complete with sound system.

For more information, call 0121 622 2444 or visit **www.theloftlounge.co.uk**



The Buttermarket

Shrewsbury

The Buttermarket has been a proud landmark in Shrewsbury since 1835.
With imposing neo-classical columns at its entrance, its original arched cellars, its rare 12-foot Wurlitzer Organ, and the £2 million refurbishment it's recently undergone, The Buttermarket is a great venue for both your ceremony and reception.
The venue's team promise to deliver a bespoke package at a price you can afford.
The venue features a variety of quirky spaces, including The Cellars, the Main Arena, the VIP Mezzanine and the fantastic Outdoor Terraces.

For more information, call 01743 281750 or visit **www.thebuttermarket.co.uk**

The Eden Marquee

Southside, Birmingham

Eden Bar on Sherlock Street in Birmingham has a fantastic marquee for your reception.
The spacious marquee has its own private access and private smoking area, as well as stage lighting and sound. It's a great space for wedding receptions, and there's an equally great team on hand to ensure that your event goes swimmingly. The award-winning venue offers a range of packages to suit your needs and wishes - making your big day truly yours.
Take the stress out of organising your afterparty. Simply sit back, relax and enjoy!

For more information, give Garry or Carla a call on 0121 622 1953 or visit **www.theedenbar.co.uk**

RSVP

Southside, Birmingham

RSVP is a private-hire venue situated on Hurst Street, right in the heart of Birmingham's gay village. It provides a great space in which to host your reception.
A popular venue, RSVP features a great sound system, a large dancefloor and a fantastic bar. If you're not looking for a sit-down meal, it's a superb space for you to enjoy an after-party until the wee small hours of the morning, just a few minutes walk from the Birmingham Hippodrome and Arcadian, it's an easily accessible location for all of your guests to get to after your ceremony.

If you're after a DJ, or other entertainment, the team will be able to help you arrange this when booking the venue.

For more information, give them a call on 0121 622 2444 or check them out on Facebook at **www.fb.com/RSVPBirmingham**

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Honeymoon Hotspots

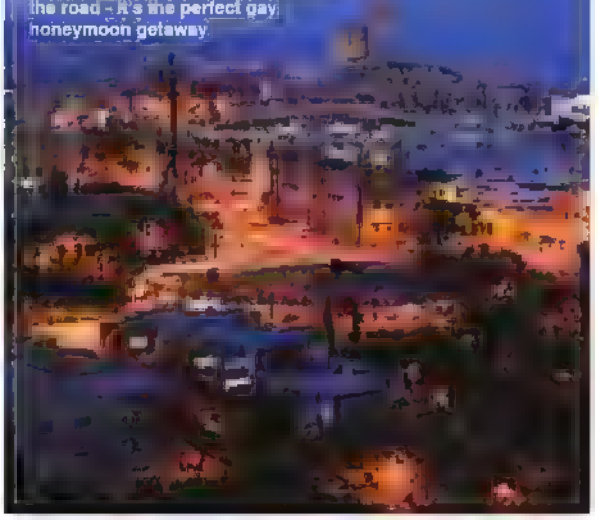
Our top three honeymoon destinations for you to enjoy

Cape Town

Cape Town offers stunning beaches, dramatic mountains and a massive gay population (same-sex marriage is legal in South Africa), so it's an obvious choice as a honeymoon destination for many LGBT people. Luxury boutiques and safari tours are popular choices for many honeymooners.

Barcelona

As well as brilliant beaches, exciting nightlife and [illegible] Barcelona also boasts progressive laws in terms of gay rights. With every [illegible] and stages just down the road – it's the perfect gay honeymoon getaway.



Toronto

Canada is a huge hit with the gay community, thanks to its friendly citizens, inviting cities and clean atmosphere – so it's no wonder Toronto is one of the top honeymoon hotspots. With its fabulous nightlife and impressive sights, the city is set to host Xtreme Pride in June.

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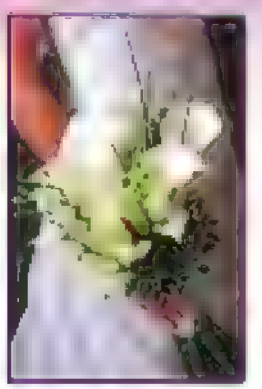

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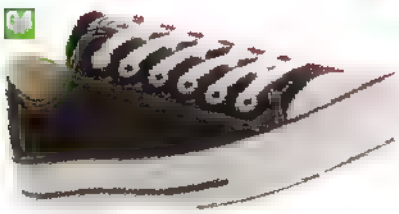

Spring staples!

With Spring well and truly here, it's time to bust out an appropriate wardrobe! Here's a selection of items to keep you in style as we wait for the real shorts and t-shirt weather to arrive!

01 **Peace Corps Harrington Bomber Jacket**

This truly timeless classic has a burgundy outer body shell and iconic tartan check cotton lining. Featuring a zipper front with two button-fastened flap pockets, and gathered knitted waist & cuffs.

£40 www.topman.com

02 **White New York 62 Stripe Print T-Shirt**

Take the varsity trend in a new direction with this black-and-white 'New York 62' stripe and floral print tee. Featuring a crew neck and short sleeves.

£20 www.riverisland.com

03 **Navy Skinny Joggers**

Keep your weekend looks stylish and laid back in these navy blue skinny joggers, featuring a drawstring waistband and cuffed hems.

£30 www.riverisland.com

04 **Converse All Star**

This originally designed basketball footwear style is timeless and iconic the world over. This vintage style features a black canvas-based upper and classic white rubber sole.

£45 www.office.co.uk

05 **Black Skinny Denim Shorts**

For a grungier hot weather look, these black skinny shorts are a vital addition to any summer wardrobe.

£26 www.topman.com

06 **Dark Blue Knitted Hat**

Finish off your Spring style with this dark blue hat in a textured knit with a turned-up edge.

£7 www.hm.com

07 **Black Round-Shaped Sunglasses**

Keep the sun out of your eyes with these trendy sunglasses.

£14 www.topman.com

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Soho - 35 Old Compton Street, London W1D 5JX
Earls Court - 266 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9HR

Splash

OF COLOUR

Check out our selection of furniture and accessories...

01 **Disco Glitter-Lined Lampshade**
A quality hand-crafted shade, made to order and with a selection of 25 colours and sizes. Lined with a stunning Disco Glitter-effect flame-retardant PVC.
£45
www.quirk.uk.com

02 **Menu Dropp Bowl**
There is possibly no prettier way to present your fruit than in this beautiful Menu Dropp Bowl. A sculptural masterpiece and conversation starter wrapped up in a temptingly tactile purple silicone body, this funky fruit bowl looks quite unlike any other bowl design
£29.95
www.redcandy.co.uk

03 **Kodari Canvas Rug**
Superbly hand-knotted from handspun wool in the mountainous region of Nepal. These pure new wool rugs are available in a number of stock sizes, as well as custom sizes, at £429/Sq metre. Quoted price is for size 240x170cm.
£1067
www.kelaty.com

04 **Euro King-Size Bed, Med Blue**
A striking upholstered bed with gentle curves and clean lines for an elegant silhouette. Available in a range of versatile colours. The slats are slightly curved for support. Fits a 160cm x 200cm Euro large double mattress. **£699**
www.made.com

04 **Estuary Cushion**
Inspired by aerial views of landscapes from around the world. The cushion is 100% cotton twill, digitally printed in bright, contemporary shades to bring a splash of luxurious colour to your room.
£38
www.great-british-designs.co.uk

06 **Aluminium Boat Bath In Citron**
Painted Acrylic Boat Bath. The Bateau-style Boat Bath seen here is made from high-quality double-skinned acrylic. The bath has recently re-launched in two new bigger-size options, providing a larger internal bathing area in which to relax. **£1,559**
www.bcdesigns.co.uk

GRAB AND GO!

The latest mobile devices in mobile technology

We all have a mobile phone, and a lot of us have tablets. Here are some of the latest mobile devices, smart watches and apps to hit the streets...

1

The latest revision of the popular Samsung Galaxy range features many improvements on the previous S4, including better camera, faster processor, heart-rate monitor and fingerprint security. This is a must-have for any Samsung Galaxy or Android fan

From Free

www.samsung.com

2

If you're a user of WhatsApp, you might be interested in new chat app Telegram. Messages are heavily encrypted and can even self-destruct. So if you're security-concious this is for you.

Free iOS App Store and Google Play

3 Samsung Gear Fit

Light and durable, with a curved Super AMOLED display, Samsung Gear Fit embodies a specialised design for exercise. Changeable straps and a variety of wallpapers, background colours and clock designs help boost your self-expression.

TBC www.samsung.com

4 Samsung Gear 2

This stylish wearable device connects seamlessly with your Samsung smartphone to make life easier on the go. Receive calls to your wrist, as well as notifications for emails, messages and many different apps, saving you from constantly pulling your phone out of your pocket.

TBC www.samsung.com

5 Nikon D3300

A brilliant way to shoot unforgettable high-definition photos and movies, this small and lightweight 24.2-megapixel D-SLR is powerful, comfortable to carry around and incredibly simple to operate

£599 www.johnlewis.com

6

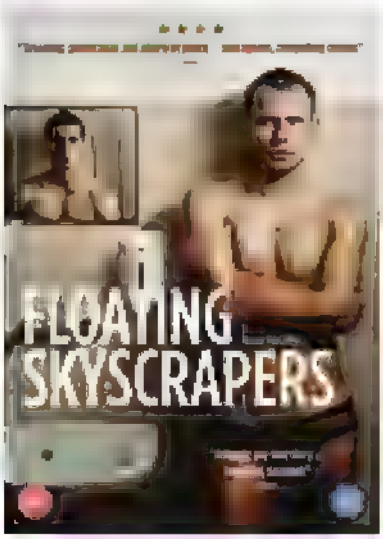
Sony claims that this is the world's slimmest and lightest waterproof tablet. The 10.1" Quad-core tablet is built with the latest Sony TV display technologies optimised for mobile, giving you the ultimate viewing experience. The Xperia Z2 tablet comes with an 8 MP camera, with Exmor RS sensor that takes sharp pictures in any light

£399 www.sonymobile.com

WIN!

WIN! Floating Skyscrapers on DVD

Three copies to give away!



We've teamed up with the folks at Matchbox Films to give Midlands Zone readers the chance to win one of three copies of brilliant new gay love story Floating Skyscrapers.

In his 15th year of training, aspiring champion swimmer Kuba lives an uneventful life at home with his mother and girlfriend. He happily switches between good sex with Sylwia and the occasional back rub his mother craves.

But Kuba has also been growing curious about some of the boys at the gym. Totally bored at a gallery opening one night, he meets Michał. Sylwia quickly picks up on her boyfriend's fascination with the young man, but chooses to keep her feelings to herself. As time passes, Michał becomes an increasingly relevant part of their life together.

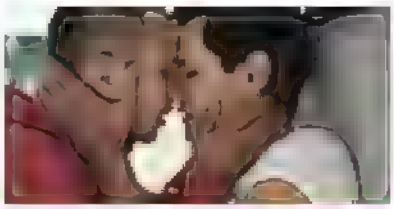
Kuba drops his training programme and begins to dream of another life. His concerned mother urges him to stay on track. Meanwhile, Michał takes on the task of convincing his mother and his distant father that his lifestyle is not just a passing fancy. Kuba comes to recognise he has never before experienced feelings as deep as those he has for Michał. It takes all the courage he can muster to face up to the people who love him and to dive in.
But doing so is not without its consequences.

For your chance to win a copy of Floating Skyscrapers, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer the following question.

In which sport is Kuba an aspiring champion?

A) Rugby
B) Tennis
C) Swimming

Floating Skyscrapers is available now on Bluray and DVD from **www.amazon.co.uk**



Enter this prize competition online at www.midlandszone.co.uk before Friday 25 April 2014

UNIQUE
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FUN
FRIENDSHIP
CONFIDENCE
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or e-mail info@shsl.org.uk
www.shsl.org.uk
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@summit_house

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

SCENE

2014

LIVE AT BRUM GAY CLUB!

Neon Jungle

THE BRAVEHEART SINGERS SET TO BRING TROUBLE TO BIRMINGHAM

INSIDE...

AN EGGCELLENT EASTER
Easter Weekend entertainment across the Midlands

FUSE ODG
The hip hop star heads to Birmingham this month

XXL IN BRUM
The men-only night makes a welcome return

THE BOSTON
NORTHAMPTON

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RECENTLY REFURBISHED INSIDE AND OUT

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 2PM DAILY

10PM - 4AM

//// THU 17 APR
WEEKEND WARMUP PARTY!
Feat. DJ CRAIGYT
R&B, chart, dance, pop + cheese
FREE ENTRY ALL NIGHT
£2 DRINKS 8PM - 11PM

OPEN 2PM - 6AM

//// SUNDAY 20 APR
BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND PARTY
KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE
WILMA FINGADOO
DJ SNUCKLES
FREE ENTRY B4 11PM | £3 B4 1AM | £5 AFTER

OPEN 2PM - 6AM

//// SUNDAY 04 MAY
BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND PARTY
KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE
DRAG WITH NO NAME
DJ SNUCKLES
FREE ENTRY B4 11PM | £3 B4 1AM | £5 AFTER

£2 DRINKS

//// EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
DJ CRAIGYT
playing the chart, dance, pop + cheese

£1 DRINKS

£8 ENTRY, £1 DRINKS | 9PM - 4:30AM

//// EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
THE BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT
Feat. DJ CILLA
playing the best pop, cheese, dance, chart, retro, R&B
FREE ENTRY b4 11PM, £3 ENTRY b4 1AM
£5 ENTRY AFTER 1AM | 10PM - 6AM

THE BOSTON . COLLEGE ST . NORTHAMPTON . NN1 2QP . 01604 604404
FACEBOOK.COM/THEBOSTONNORTHAMPTON

Marty, the girl who likes to party, heads to Shrewsbury

Hey, hey, hey! That's the familiar catchphrase of Birmingham's Marty, who's set to grace the stage of Shrewsbury's C:21 bar and nightclub on Monday 7 April
She'll be singing some party classics, as well as a few new tracks, so be sure to check her out! Not only that, but C:21 has some brilliant drinks offers, starting at just £1 - and they're available all night long too!
C:21 - Shrewsbury

BIRMINGHAM

2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS ANYONE?

If you've had a hellish day in the office, then chill out, relax and unwind with your mates and a cocktail at Birmingham's award-winning Loft Lounge. They're two-for-one all day and night - the perfect excuse to make an evening of it!
The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

❑ **2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

DJ MIKE EMERY WILL GET YOU DANCING

Monday evenings at Brum's Missing Bar see a great selection of £1 drinks available all night - from spirits to shots, and from bottles to bombs. DJ Mike Emery will be on hand to get you in the mood with some great tunes!
Missing - Birmingham

❑ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am. **Missing Bar**

❑ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - **Missing Bar**

THERE'S MONDAY MADNESS TO BE HAD

Monday isn't a typical night to go out clubbing, but don't let that stop you! Join DJ Matt at Birmingham's Bar Jester for a night of great music and amazing happy-hour offers!
Bar Jester - Birmingham

❑ **MONDAY MADNESS** - Weekly drink offers with DJ Matt. **Bar Jester**

❑ **PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT** - with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig. Cash prizes and free drinks. **The Village Inn**

GET POUNDED EVERY MONDAY!

There are plenty of reasons to go out and about in Birmingham's gay village on a Monday night - one of which is Pounded at Sidewalk! Selected drinks are just £1 all night - and it's not the cheap stuff either; it's all branded spirits! We'll see you at the bar!
Sidewalk, Birmingham

❑ **POUNDED** - Bringing back the Pink Pounder. Selected drinks from £1 (branded spirits). **Sidewalk**

❑ **SUGAR RUSH** - £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs. **Nightingale Club**

OUTSKIRTS - 1st & 3rd Monday monthly. **Equator Bar**

WEST MIDLANDS

❑ **FABULOUS** - *Mon 7 Apr* - Live cabaret with Marty. Drinks from just £1. **C:21, Shrewsbury**

CHILLAX - with Free Pool and cheap drinks. **The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

CHILL NIGHT - with Karaoke. **Three Furnaces, Telford**

THE MONDAY CLUB - 9pm-5am. Student night. Everything is £2. Shots £1. With DJ Lee Edward. **Gorgeous, Wolves**

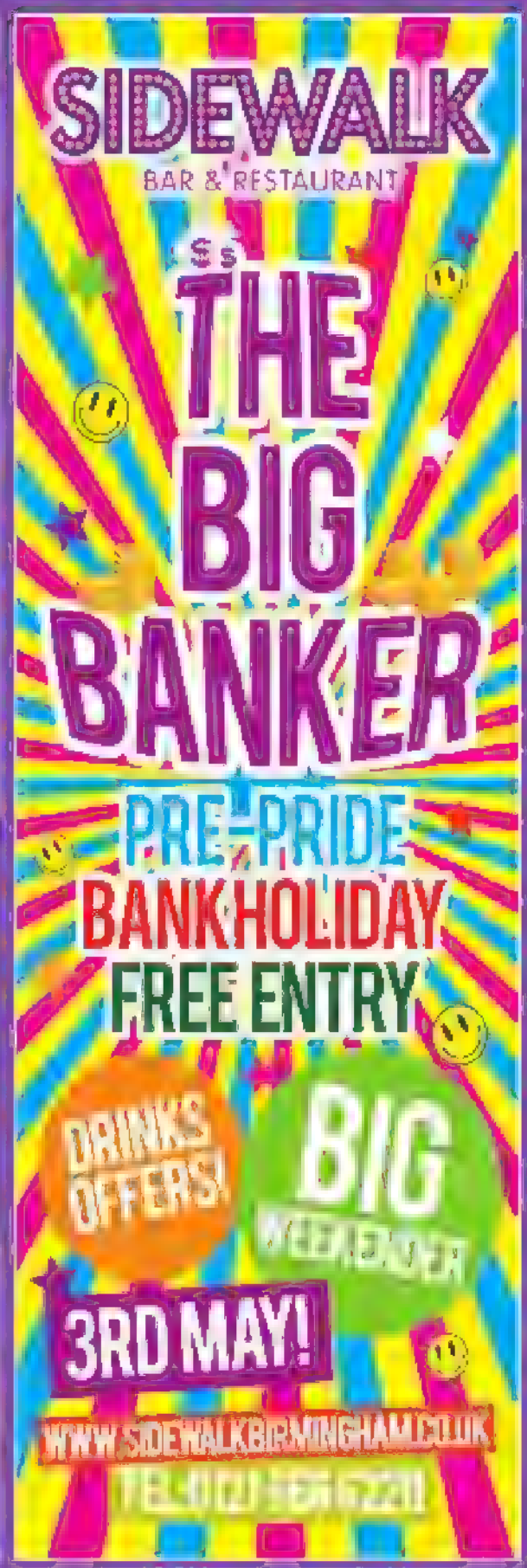
DENTED - 9pm-midnight. Downstairs with DJ Destiny and upstairs with DJ Lee Jon until 4am. **The Factory, Stoke on Trent**

STUDENT NIGHT - Free admission, all drinks £1.50 before midnight. **Pink, Stoke on Trent**

EAST MIDLANDS

❑ **2 TILL 2** - Open from 2pm till 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. **The Boston, Northampton**

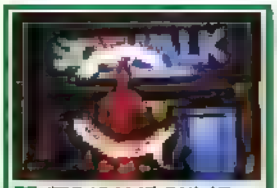
DISCO - 7pm-midnight. **New Foresters, Nottingham**



TUESDAY | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 APRIL

BIRMINGHAM

❑ **2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**



IT'S 'GAME ON' AT SIDEWALK BAR!

If you fancy yourself as a bit of a gaming addict, then be sure to head down to Birmingham's award-winning Sidewalk bar every Tuesday for a night of Xbox gaming. There are tournaments to enjoy, with great prizes! Sidewalk - Birmingham

❑ **GAMER NIGHT** Show your skills on Xbox Tournaments, prizes for the winners. **Sidewalk**

❑ **MIS-SING KARAOKE** - With your host, James. Party starts at 9pm till late. **Missing Bar**

❑ **TACKY TUESDAYS** - with Charlotte and Miss Penny. Songs, Games & Prizes. **The Village Inn**

SING A SONG OR TWO IN BIRMINGHAM .

If you're stuck for things to do on a Tuesday evening, why not head down to Missing in Birmingham. Here, you'll find a night of karaoke from 9pm till late. Your host for the evening will be DJ James!

Missing - Birmingham

GREAT FUN AT BAR JESTER - WE JEST NOT!

Pop on down to Birmingham's Bar Jester and join Baby Doll for a night of fun. There's happy hour until 2am, and the club's open right through until 6am! Blimey!

Bar Jester - Birmingham

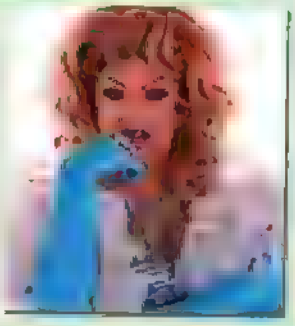
❑ **TUNE UP TUESDAY** - with Baby Doll. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-6am. **Bar Jester**

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP QUIZ - With free buffet. Quiz starts 8.30pm. Three Furnaces, Telford

Join Miss Penny and Charlotte for Tacky Tuesdays in Brum

There's plenty of fun and laughter to be had each and every Tuesday at The Village Inn in Birmingham.
Your hosts for the evening, Miss Penny and Charlotte the Harlotte, will take you on a journey into tackiness, along the way giving you the chance to win anything from free drinks at the bar to free admission to The Nightingale.
Expect to be dragged on stage for a laugh with the girls - you've got nothing to lose!
The Village Inn - Birmingham



DIVERSITY - Weekly gay friendly night with DJ Jay playing everything from pop & hip hop to rock. Velvet, Worcester

FLAUNT - A twist of awesome tunes to suit everyone. Brewery Tap, Worcester

SAMMIE'S SINGERS - Karaoke 9pm-2am and a curry for just £3.95. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

STUDENT PARTY - Join DJ Kirk Scott for Walsall's biggest Tuesday night party. The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

EAST MIDLANDS

❑ **2 TILL 2** - Open from 2pm til 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. **The Boston, Northampton**

CHILL OUT NIGHT - Free Pool 6pm-midnight. New Foresters, Nottingham

GAMES NIGHT - Free Pool and Nintendo Wii from 8pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

WEDNESDAY | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 APRIL

❑ **2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

WEDNESDAYS ARE JUST 2 GOOD 2 MISS!

Happy hump day! You're halfway through the week, so why not reward yourself with a night of cheap drinks, great music and a fantastic atmosphere? Pop down and join DJ Mykee, who'll be playing the soundtrack to your night!

Missing - Birmingham

❑ **2 GOOD 2 MISS** - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mykee. **Missing Bar**

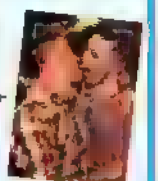
❑ **KARAOKE** - with Charlotte the Harlotte and DJ Deano. Free Shots for all participants. **The Village Inn**

❑ **SHOUT - QUEER FILM FESTIVAL** - *Wed 23- Sun 27 Apr* - Various venues - See feature on pages 70 & 71 for information.

❑ **SPEED DATING** - *Wed 9 & 25 Apr* - Gay & Lesbian speed dating night. For info visit: myspeeddate.co.uk **The Vaults**

GET WACKY THIS WEDNESDAY IN BRUM

There's some midweek fun to be had every Wednesday night at Birmingham's favourite late-night venue, Bar Jester.
If you're looking for a great way to spend your night, stop by and say hi to your host for the evening, Hallie James, and DJ Craig, who'll be spinning the tunes!

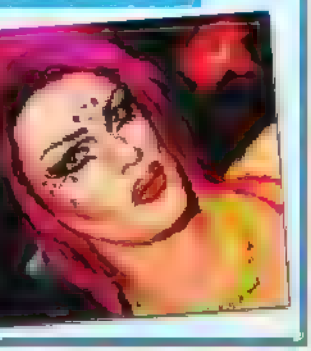


Bar Jester - Birmingham

❑ **WACKY WEDNESDAYS** - Hosted by Hallie James with DJ Craig. **Bar Jester**

MIDWEEK MAYHEM - Free Pool. Open 7-11pm. The Fox

WEDNESDAY LINE - Line Dancing every Wednesday. The Wellington



With karaoke being one of Britain's favourite pastimes, it's no wonder Wednesday nights at The Village Inn are a blast! Join the lovely Charlotte the Harlotte and mix-master DJ Deano for a night of entertainment and karaoke. Whether you're good, bad or great, give it a go - and all in the name of entertaining the crowd!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

KARAOKE - Sing Your Cares Away with DJ Lee & Gee Force. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT - Live DJs, drinks promotions. Free before 10pm, £1 after. Three Furnaces, Telford

❑ **KARAOKE** - 9pm til 3am. £2 drinks from 8pm til 11pm. Free Entry. **The Boston, Northampton**

GAMES NIGHT - Free Pool 1pm-2am. Drinks from £1.20 a day. Karaoke & Disco 7pm-2am. New Foresters, Nottingham

OUT - Everyone's Out. Free entry for students, £1 drinks all night. NG1, Nottingham

EVERY MONDAY

Fabulous

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

MONDAY 7 APRIL
LIVE CABARET!
MARTY

FREE ENTRY
B4 11PM

DRINKS FROM £1

9PM-3AM!

C:21

MONDAY 5 MAY
LIVE CABARET!
VICKY JACKSON AS
KATY PERRY

(C:21) ABBEY FOREGATE SHREWSBURY SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

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AND THE VANDELLAS

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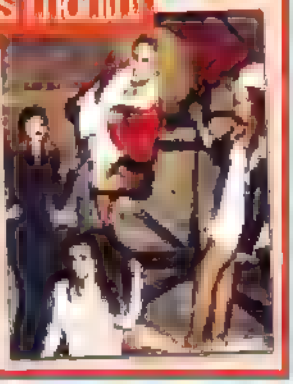
Neon Jungle return to The Nightingale this month



Returning to The Nightingale in Birmingham is hot new girl group Neon Jungle.
Join the girls on Thursday 17 April for a special edition of Pounded, when they'll be performing their hit tracks Trouble and Braveheart, amongst others. There's also a great selection of drinks offers available throughout the night, making the Gale a top choice of Thursday night venue for anybody on a budget!
The Nightingale - Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

BACK TO THE 90S - with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm. Eden Bar

BOMBZAI - £1.20 Bombs - 10 to choose from. Selected drinks from £1.50. DJ Mykee taking you through to the early hours. Missing Bar

DJ DEANO - On the decks. Happy Hour midnight - 2am. The Village Inn

DROP THE BOMB - With DJ Kam. Bombs from £1.50. Distrikt

MARTY GOES MAD AT THE VILLAGE INN

New for Thursday nights at The Village Inn in Birmingham is Marty's Madhouse.
Join Marty for a night of fun, games, cabaret - and cheap drinks until 2am, courtesy of happy hour! Hurrah!
The Village Inn - Birmingham

MARTY'S MADHOUSE - Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano. The Village Inn

NEON JUNGLE - *Thurs 17 Apr* - Live on stage. Nightingale Club

PARTY POP - Poptastic tunage with DJ Marcus. Bar Jester

POUNDED - £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor, Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor. Drinks from £1. Nightingale Club

SOUL THING Open 7 late. Drinks from £1. The Fox

THE GARAGE COLLECTION Brums new Urban night. Every Thursday 10pm late. Club DV8

WEST MIDLANDS

TASTE THE RAINBOW - with DJ Skittle. Karaoke and drinks from £1. 7pm - Late. Free admission all night. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

CAMPLAND V CLUBLAND with Disco Diva Cara [illegible] night & 1am Diva Gaz & Mikey through [illegible]am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

CAMP KARAOKE and cabaret with Jayne Van Camp. Three Furnaces Telford

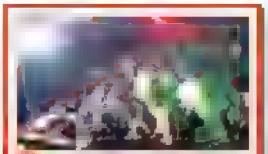
CLUB KARAOKE with DJ Zac. The Lion Walsall

GET OUT with DJ Teejay. The Bell Solihull

POP 69! 9pm-5am. Drinks from just 69p [illegible] 2am, then £1 until close. With Dee Scottie B, Joshua & Ayden C. Gorgeous Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm til 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston, Northampton



EASTER WEEKEND PARTY AT THE BOSTON

Join DJ Craig from Thursday 17 April for a weekend-long Easter party at Northampton's favourite gay venue, The Boston. Drinks from £2 and free admission! Wahey!
The Boston - Northampton

WEEKEND WARMUP - *Thurs 17 Apr* - Easter weekend party with DJ Craig. Free admission, Drinks from £2 (8-11pm) The Boston, Northampton

KARAOKE & DISCO 7pm-2am. New Foresters Nottingham

4 BOTTLED BEERS or 4 ALCOPOPS or 3 BOTTLED CIDERS FOR JUST £10 UNTIL 2AM

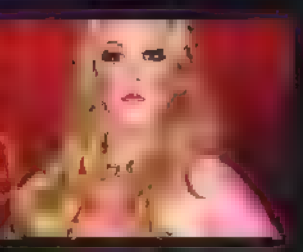
4 JÄGERBOMBS FOR £10 // HAPPY HOUR UNTIL 2AM

The Jester

MONDAY MADNESS

HOSTED BY DJ MATT

tuned up tuesday



DJ CRAIG

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

HOSTED BY ROLLIE JAMES

party pop

fun & games

DJ MARCUS JAMES

OPEN TIL 6AM

DJ MATT

Retro

OPEN TIL 6AM

OPEN UNTIL 6AM

DJ MATT

OPEN TIL 6AM

#just saying

SUNDAY Funday

SUN/MON/TUES/WED

10PM 'TIL 4AM

THU/FRI/SAT

9PM 'TIL 6AM

BAR JESTER, 12 HOLLOWAY CIRCUS (QUEENSWAY) B1 1EA

0121 643 8344 | BARJESTER.CO.UK | /BARJESTER | @BARJESTER

DESIGNED BY JCAKES

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

IT'S A BIG GAY FRIDAY AT MISSING

Missing Bar in Birmingham is on a mission to turn Friday night into the gayest night in the city. Join DJ James for Big Gay Fridays, when he'll be playing party anthems through till the early hours. It's a great night, so why not pop by?

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours. **Missing Bar**

DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki. **Eden Bar**

FREAKY FRIDAY - with DJ Lotty. Big name cabaret at midnight. 4am bar. *Fri 4 Apr* - Son Of A Tutu. *Fri 11 Apr* - Miss Jason. *Fri 18 Apr* - Kelly Wilde *Fri 25 Apr* - Sandra. **The Village Inn**

FRIDAY FRENZY - R&B and floor fillers until 4am. **Sidewalk**

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2. **Nightingale Club**

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James. **Missing Bar**

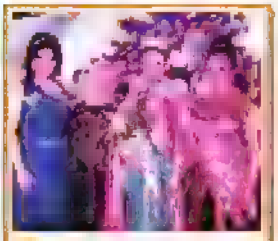
LIP GLOSS - *Fri 4 Apr* - with host Trisha. Every first Friday of the month. A night for the Trans community (friends welcome) 9pm-2am £3 admission. Plus Stripper Stallion. **Eden Bar**

MIDSBEARS MEET AT BRUM'S EDEN BAR

Join the MidsBears social group at Eden Bar in Birmingham for their monthly meet-up for bears and their admirers. It takes place in the venue's marquee on Friday 18 April - and there are special drinks offers too!

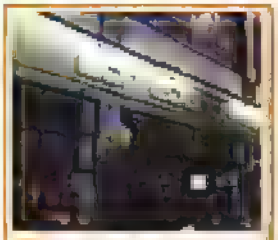
MIDSBEARS - *Fri 18 Apr* - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers. **Eden Bar**

RETRO FRIDAY - Retro tunes with DJ Matt. **Bar Jester**



GET YOUR LIP GLOSS ON AT EDEN

The first Friday of every month (Fri 4 Apr) sees Lip Gloss take place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. The event celebrates all things trans* and welcomes along their admirers and friends. It's just £2 admission and runs from 9pm till 2am!

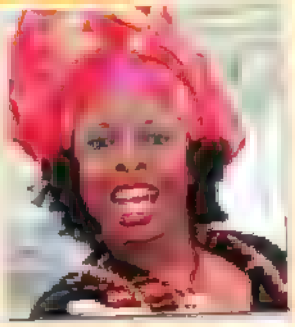


VINTAGE FRIDAYS AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

If you're looking for something a bit different to kickstart your weekend, then swing by The Loft Lounge for Vintage Fridays. Featuring a great mix of soul, funk, motown and Northern Soul.

[illegible] IN BIRMINGHAM

If cabaret is your bag, head down to The Village Inn on Hurst Street, Birmingham. It's here you'll find a great selection of the UK's best cabaret talent, live on stage every Friday night!
Coming up in April, there's Son Of A Tutu on the 4th, Miss Jason on the 11th, Kelly Wilde on the 18th, and wrapping up the month, Sandra on the 25th. Join DJ Lotty and the rest of the team for a great night out to kickstart your weekend in style.



SING STAR SUPERSTAR - with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash! **Eden Bar**

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites. **The Loft Lounge**

XXL PRE-BAR - *Fri 18 Apr* - Official pre-bar for XXL. Monthly meet up for the Midlands Bears. **Eden Bar**

XXL - *Fri 18 Apr* - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Every 3rd Friday of each month. **The Core Club**

[illegible] last Friday monthly. Club DV8

FUNK'D UP - (alternate Saturdays) Uplifting funky, vocal house. 11pm til 6am. £5 til 2am £8 after. Club Chic

KARAOKE - Come and have a sing to start your weekend. The Fox

SO IT GOES CLASSIC - *Fri 18 Apr* - Good Friday Super event Club Chic

TIN TINS - The Reunion - *Fri 4 Apr* - The Rainbow, Digbeth

TV PARTY NIGHT - A Men's Night for TVs, Cross Dressers and Admirers. Every Friday night at **The Greenhouse, Darlaston**

BACK 2 BACK KARAOKE with DJ Shawn and DJ Dave 8pm-4am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos until 9.45. Free entry before 10pm. The Three Furnaces Telford

CLUB FRIDAY with DJ Zac The Lion. Walsall

FRIDAY SOCIAL - with DJ Paul Griff & guests. The Bell Stourbridge

[illegible] 1st Fri monthly. Drinks from £1 until midnight, with resident DJs Gorgeous Club Wolverhampton

PARTY NIGHT - with DJ Laura. All your favourites from the 70's 80's, 90's and 00's. Rainbows Coventry

START THE WEEKEND - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hyde's cabaret show from 9pm Pink. Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY - A fun and funky mixture of 70s, high energy through to current chart. Brewery Tap. Worcester

VENOM - Foxy Divine downstairs 9pm-midnight. DJ Dyson & DJ Ibbs upstairs from 11pm. The Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

PINK POUNDER IN NORTHAMPTON!

Join DJ Craig every Friday for a great night of music and partying. It's £8 admission, but there are drinks at just £1 all night! The Boston in Northampton is open from 9pm right through until 4.30am!

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night with DJ Craig. £8 entry, £1 drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am. **The Boston, Northampton**

VALUE FRIDAY - Disco 9pm-4am. Free entry. New Foresters Nottingham

CABARET NIGHT - every Friday night from 11pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

CLUB NIGHT - with DJ Rob [illegible] playing chart toppers. Helsinki, Leicester

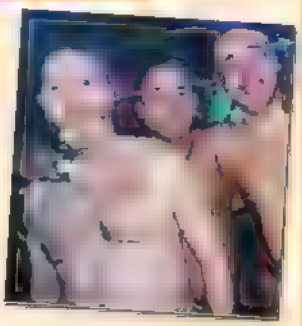
LIPSTIQUE - With DJ Ash playing old skool camp classics. Every 2nd,3th & 4th Friday monthly. Curzons, Derby

[illegible] - Free admission before 11pm (all night for students). BOGOF on selected drinks. Poptastic every last friday monthly. NG1 Nottingham

WIG OUT - New monthly 70s night. Sloanes, Leicester

[illegible]

XXL, winner of Best One-Nighter in this year's Midlands Zone Readers' Awards, returns to Birmingham's Core Club on Friday 18 April. It's a great men-only night for Bears and the like, so join DJ Christian M and a lot of Midlands men for a fantastic night out.
There's an official pre-bar over the road at Eden, so be sure to stop by and get in the mood for XXL.



XXL LONDON

WEDNESDAYS 10PM - 3AM
SATURDAYS 10PM - 8AM
PULSE
No.1 INVICTA PLACE SE1 9UF

WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM

BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
9PM - 3AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

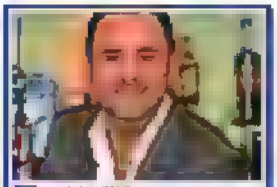
FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

BIRMINGHAM

❑ **THE ATTIC** - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256. **Missing Bar**

❑ **BACK TO THE 80S** - 2am - 4am. **Eden Bar**

❑ **BEARBRUM** - *Sat 12 Apr* Free food. With DJ Yogi. In association with Mids Bears. Sports wear theme. **Eden Bar**



DJ LOTTY'S BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

Always a popular event, The Big Saturday Night Out at The Village Inn sees DJ Lotty take to the decks, playing a fine mix of pop, chart, dance and much, much more! Pop in and say hi - you won't want to leave!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

❑ **BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT** - Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground. **The Village Inn**

❑ **BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT** - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions. **Nightingale Club**

CHART HITS AND '80S LOVE AT EDEN

Join DJ Dan every Saturday night at Eden from 9pm for a great selection of chart hits. From 2am, he switches it up and takes it back to the '80s. And there are cheap drinks promotions to enjoy too!

Eden - Birmingham

❑ **CHART HITS** - with DJ Dan 9pm, from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions. **Eden Bar**

❑ **CULT** - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm. **Nightingale Club**

❑ **JUST SAYING** - with DJ Matt. **Bar Jester**

❑ **KARAOKE & COCKTAILS** - in The Attic, plus music from across the decades. **Missing Bar**

LATE-NIGHT VIBES AT THE VILLAGE INN

If you're looking for a late-night party, then pop into The Village Inn and see Charlotte the Harlotte. She'll be keeping the fun going until 8am(!), playing the best music from the charts and beyond!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

❑ **L8R** - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday. **The Village Inn**

DJ KAM CAMPS UP BRUM'S SIDEWALK

Right in the heart of Birmingham's gay village is Sidewalk, and every Saturday night, DJ Kam plays a selection of the best tracks. Meanwhile, the bar team have some great offers and Sidewalk Slammers for you! Sidewalk - Birmingham

❑ **SATURS-FACTION** - With DJ Kam. Sidewalk Slammers and drink promos. **Sidewalk**

❑ **SATURDAY SESSIONS** - *Sat 19 Apr* With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm. **The Loft Lounge**

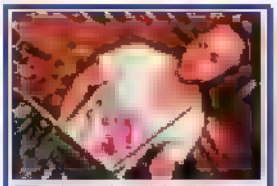
❑ **WE <3 SATURDAYS** - with DJ Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy Shane on his stilts. Open until 4am. **Missing Bar**

❑ **THE WHITE PARTY** - *Sat 19 Apr* - Fuse ODG live on stage. Open till 8am. **Nightingale Club**

Fuse ODG set to take Birmingham by storm!

Saturday 19 April sees British hip-hop and Afrobeat star Fuse ODG take to the stage at The Nightingale. He'll be performing a selection of his best-known tracks, including Million Pound Girl, Azonto and Antenna. The night is taking a White Party theme - so get in the spirit and wear something white! Oh, and that's not all - the club is open right through till 8am!

The Nightingale - Birmingham

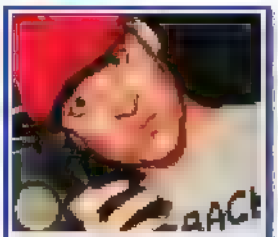


SIMON BAKER'S SATURDAY SESSIONS

DJ Simon Baker brings a special edition of his Saturday Sessions to Birmingham's Loft Lounge on Saturday 19 April It's a great way to get your night started, so pop in and enjoy a cocktail with him!

The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every Saturday The Ultimate morning Night Out with Des Benny Rich Wayne B and Scotty Uplifting funky vocal house and house and speed garage Free before 12am £12 guests £10 members £6 students Club Chic



DJ MYKEE <3 SATURDAY NIGHTS!

DJ Mykee and the Missing Bar team love Saturdays so much they've named them just that - We <3 Saturdays. The night features awesome tunes, a great atmosphere, Twiggy hosting and sexy Shane on stilts!

Missing - Birmingham

DJ NIKKI 1st Sat monthly Equator Bar

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 3pm late The Fox

KARAOKE Every Sat night The Wellington

BearBrum returns to Birmingham's Eden Bar

If you're a bear, a friend, admirer or supporter, then head down to Eden in Birmingham for BearBrum on Saturday 12 April. It's a night of free food and great music in the company of likeminded people. This month sees the event take on a sportswear theme, so pull out your favourite kit and pop along!

Eden - Birmingham

WEST MIDLANDS

THE ANTIDOTE Divina De Campo downstairs from 4pm Destiny Dyson upstairs from 11pm The Factory Stoke on Trent

BIG NIGHT OUT Big Dogs top tunes 8am-3.30am The Lion Walsall

CAMP & SLAG 9pm 6am Drinks from £1.50 plus midnight DJ Paul Gardner at 2.30am then Star Presenters until sunrise Gorgeous Wolverhampton

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos from 9.45 Free entry before 11pm The Three Furnaces Telford

FLOORFILLERS With DJ Andrew Smith Rainbows Coventry

INCLUSION Weekly game Birmingham & UK DJs every week The Bell Stourbridge

LIVE CABARET With Dos Gaz and Mikey til 5am The White Hart Wolverhampton

NOT TO MISS Free admission before 11pm Tanya Hyde's cabaret show 9pm Park Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

❑ **BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT** - 10pm til 6am. Free entry before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 after **The Boston, Northampton**

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 10pm-6.30am 3 Dogs With DJ Cola Free admission before midnight (selected discounts) Neat Nottingham

CLUB NIGHT With DJ Nick B playing floorfillers and cheesy bangers from midnight Free entry before midnight £6 after Heaven Leicester

DISCO Disco 9pm-4am Free entry New Foresters Nottingham

DOGGY STYLE Every 3rd Saturday monthly Corzons Derby

SATURGAY Camp tunes all the way through to 2am Dover Castle Leicester

WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THENIGHTINGALECLUB
KENT STREET, BIRMINGHAM. B5 6RD TEL:0121 622 1718

nightingale club BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday. Eden Bar

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

Head down to Birmingham's Missing Bar on Sunday 20 April for some Easter magic! The night, hosted by Trisha, will feature plenty of fun and games, including a free egg tombola. Drop in for an eggcellent time!
Missing - Birmingham

EGGTRAVAGANZA - *Sun 20 Apr* - Hosted by Trisha with a free egg tombola. Missing Bar

FLASHBACK WITH TWIGGY AND DJ MATT

Be sure to drop into Bar Jester for an afternoon and night of fun with DJ Matt on Sunday 20 April. There's live cabaret with Twiggy too - so this really is a double Easter whammy not to be missed!
Bar Jester - Birmingham

FLASHBACK - *Sun 20 Apr* - from 4pm. With Drag Act Twiggy. Cabaret at 7pm and DJ Matt. Bar Jester

KARAOKE from 8pm. Sidewalk

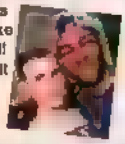
MISSING PRESENTS - Cabaret every Sunday hosted by one of their fabulous drag queens. Missing Bar

SUNDAY BREAKFAST - The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95. The Loft Lounge

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY - with Baby G. Bar Jester

QUIZ AND KARAOKE FUN TO END THE WEEK

If you want to give your brain a bit of a workout, then head to Birmingham's Sidewalk bar for its weekly quiz. If that's not for you, then there's a spot of karaoke to enjoy instead! You lot are spoilt for choice!
Sidewalk - Birmingham

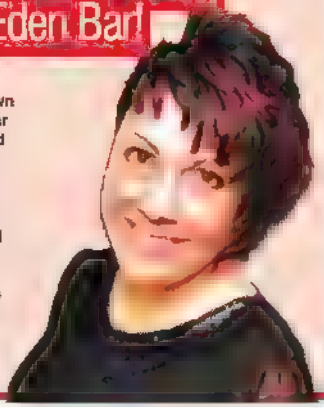


SUNDAY LOUNGE - Karaoke & monthly quiz. Sidewalk

SUNDAY SESSION - with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Plus Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm The Village Inn

Disco and karaoke every Sunday at Eden Bar!

If you don't want your weekend to end, pop down to Birmingham's Eden Bar for a night of karaoke and disco fun with DJ Nikki. Grab a mic, sing a song, have a dance and get merry with your mates. What better way to spend a Sunday? And let's face it, it's certainly better than sitting in front of the telly waiting for Monday morning to arrive!
Missing - Birmingham



VICKY JACKSON - *Sun 20 Apr* - Live on stage Easter Sunday The Village Inn

CHILLAX - Look out for the special Sunday promotions. Open 3pm-late The Fox

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £7.50. The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

CHILL OUT - After the party Rainbows, Coventry

CLUB SUNDAY - Free admission selected 2 for 1 drinks From 8pm Lion Bar & Club Walsall

KARAOKE NIGHT - Free admission. Stoke on Trent

[illegible]'S PARTY 9pm-4am Fun & Games Karaoke Prizes and a round on us Drinks from £2 Gorgeous Wolverhampton

OKIE DOKIE KARAOKE With DJ Shawn and Gale Force Open till 4am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

KARAOKE PARTY NIGHT Open 7pm 2am with drink promos. Three Furnaces Telford

[illegible] SUNDAY with Foxy Divine's Disco Bingo. 8pm-1am The Factory, Stoke on Trent

SUNDAY ROAST - Served from 2am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

EASTER WEEKEND PARTY AT THE BOSTON

Sunday 20 April sees a huge Easter celebration at The Boston in Northampton! There's karaoke, live cabaret from Wilma Fingerdoo and music from resident DJ Snuckles.
The Boston - Northampton

EAST MIDLANDS

KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE - 9pm-2am £6 cocktail pitchers with free entry all night. The Boston, Northampton

EASTER WEEKEND PARTY - *Sun 20 Apr* Karaoke with Joeyoke - 8pm. Wilma Fingerdoo - 11pm. DJ Snuckles - 1am. Open 2pm-6am. Free before 11pm £3 before 1am. £5 after. The Boston, Northampton

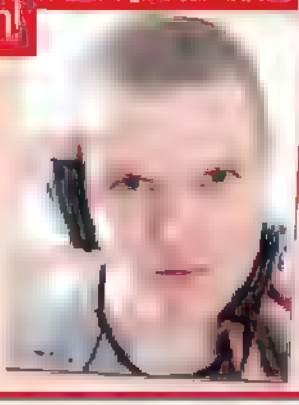
BRUNCH CLUB - Brunch for £5 with unlimited soft drinks and day - 3pm Rainbow & Dove Leicester

KARAOKE & DISCO [illegible]pm-2am. New Foresters Nottingham

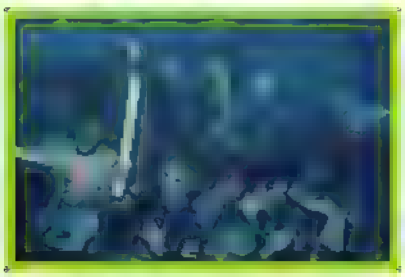
TOPPING & BUTCH - *Sun 6 Apr* - Live on stage Sloanes Leicester

Get ready for a Sunday Session in Birmingham!

Join DJ Deano every Sunday night at The Village Inn in Birmingham. He'll be there to wrap up your weekend in style, playing a great selection of the very best tunes. Whether it's dance, R'n'B, commercial or chart, you'll be on the dancefloor all night long! There's also bingo to enjoy, with the one and only Mrs Mills. The weekend isn't over yet, folks, so head on down for a great night out!
The Village Inn - Birmingham



The Lion Bar & Club celebrates its 26th birthday!



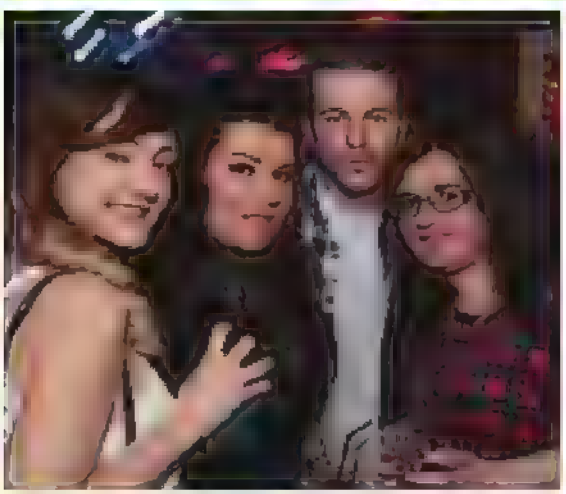
Not many venues get to celebrate a 26th birthday, so party hats off to Walsall's Lion Bar & Club, which did exactly that last month!

To ensure it was an occasion to remember, owner Eric Cooke and manager Zac Humpage threw a huge party, with a live PA from 90s dance legends Liv n' Joy.

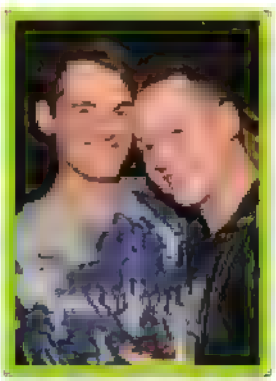
Punters on the evening certainly got into the party mood, dancing away until the early hours.

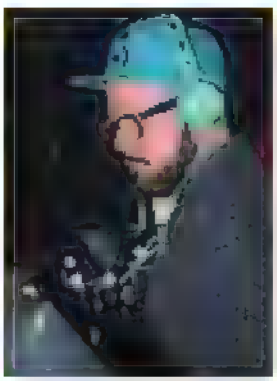
If you've never been to The Lion pop along asap - you'll be surprised at just how great a venue it is, offering something for everyone. It even has a cracking outside area, complete with its own bar, fast food outlet and swimming pool. Yep, that's right, swimming pool! The perfect treat for a hot Summer's day - or maybe even a warmish Spring one!

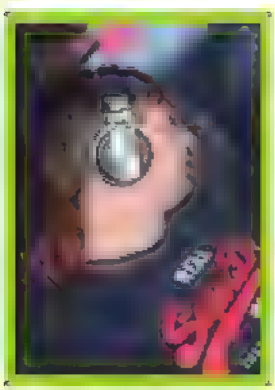
For more information about The Lion Bar & Club visit its website at www.lionbarandclub.co.uk or call 01922 610977

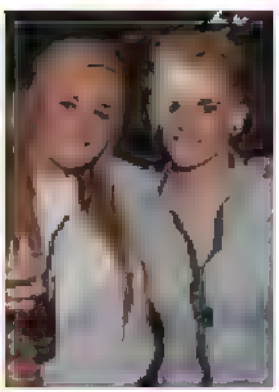


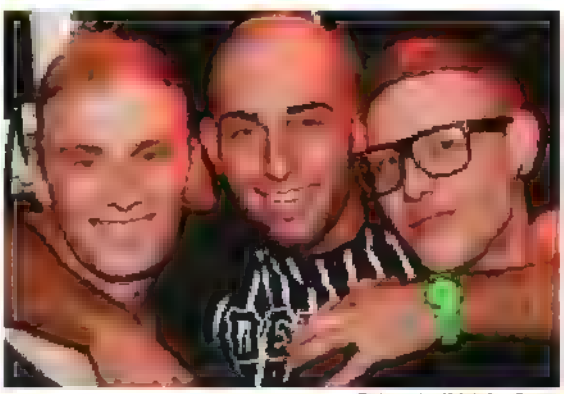
More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk







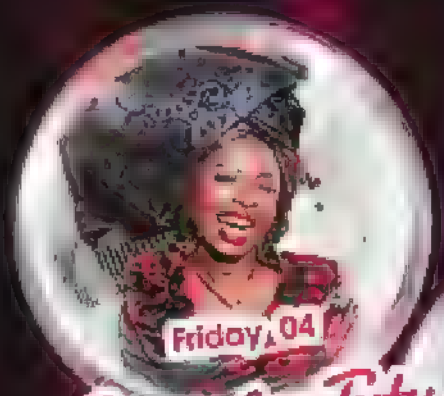


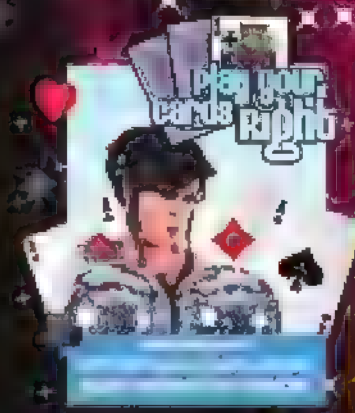


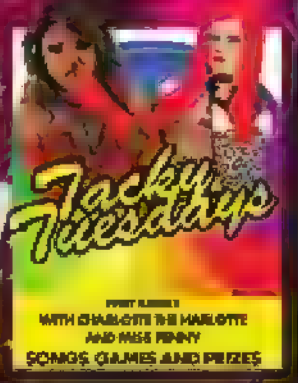
Pictures by **Kristofor Green**

LET US ENTE

The Village Inn :: BIRMINGHAM'S No.1







HAPPY HOUR

12PM - 10PM
SUN- WEDNESDAY
12PM - 2PM
THURSDAY NIGHT
12PM - 8PM
FRIDAY NIGHT
12PM - 6PM
SATURDAY NIGHT

3 CHANCES TO WIN
The Village Inn
CASH JACKPOTS
Jacky Tuesdays

ERTAIN YOU In April

CABARET VENUE AS VOTED BY YOU!

Sunday 20

Vicky Jackson

Friday 25

Sandra

Birmingham Heat

VILLAGE INN BIRMINGHAM

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A WEEK :
12 PM - TILL LATE

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The Village

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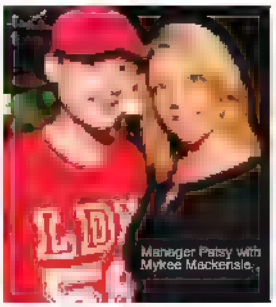
Twiggy gets the party started at **Missing**

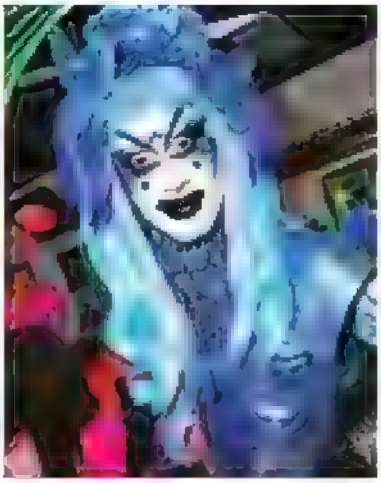
Birmingham party bar Missing is a great place to get yourself in the mood for a big gay village night out.

Join Twiggy (pictured far right) for an evening of fun, games, great music and a whole lotta dancing each and every Saturday night.

DJ Mykee is on the decks, offering a perfect mix of chart hits, commercial tracks and party classics – not to mention a nice slice or two of cheese to top it all off!

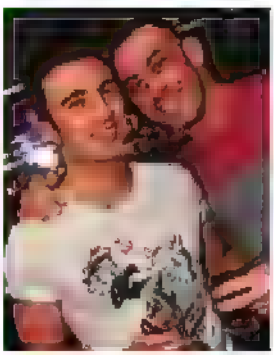
In short, you'll be missing a treat if you don't treat yourself to a night out in Missing!

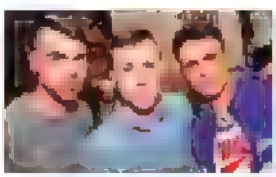

Manager Patsy with Mykee Mackenzie.

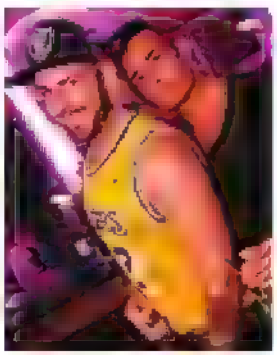


Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Grab a drink at **Sidewalk** for a great start to the night



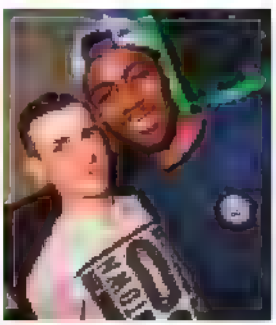


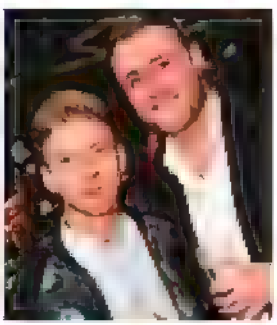


Situated on Hurst Street, right in the heart of Birmingham's gay village, Sidewalk is one of the most popular bars in which to kickstart the evening.

Join DJ Kam and the rest of the gang for a top-quality warm-up ahead of a big night out. The bar stocks a huge variety of drinks – from beers to cocktails and shots to bombs – ensuring there's something to suit everybody's tastes.

The bar also offers food at lunchtimes and in the evenings. So if you're peckish, be sure to stop by and grab a bite to eat.





Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Missing
BIG
80'S GAY
90'S
& TODAY
EVERY FRIDAY
£2 DRINKS
EVERY WEDNESDAY
£120 BOMBS
EVERY THURSDAY
KARAOKE
EVERY TUESDAY
£1 DRINKS
EVERY MONDAY
IN THE ATTIC
EVERY SATURDAY
BIGGEST PARTY
EVERY SATURDAY
20 APRIL 2014
CABARET
EVERY SUNDAY
FREE EGG TOMBOLA
HOSTED BY
TRISHA
pride
IS COMING!!!

Throw some shapes at **The Nightingale**!

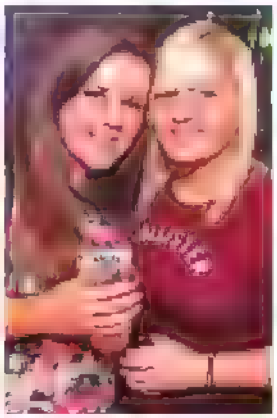
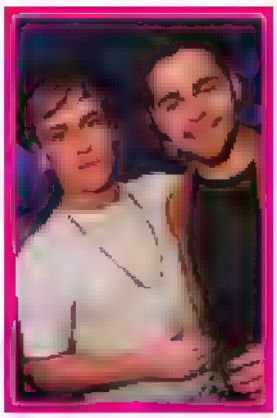
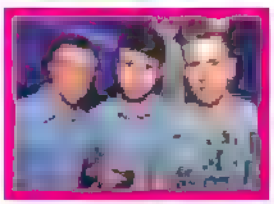
Birmingham's award-winning gay superclub The Nightingale consistently offers one of the biggest and best nights out in the city's gay village

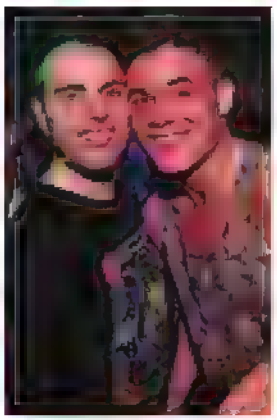
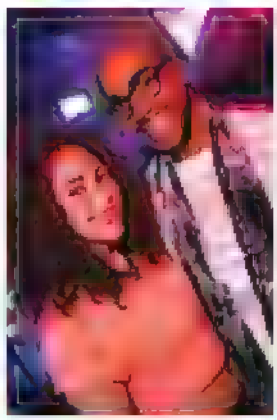
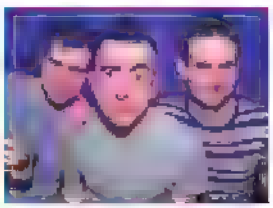
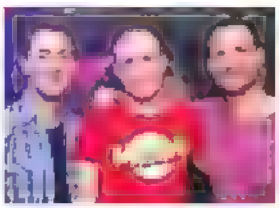
It's no surprise, really, as the venue provides no fewer than four rooms of music. There's pop, chart and commercial downstairs with the likes of DJ Simon Harris, and live entertainment from Marty, the girl who likes to party, on the middle floor. Meanwhile, for those who enjoy something a little harder there's urban on the top floor.

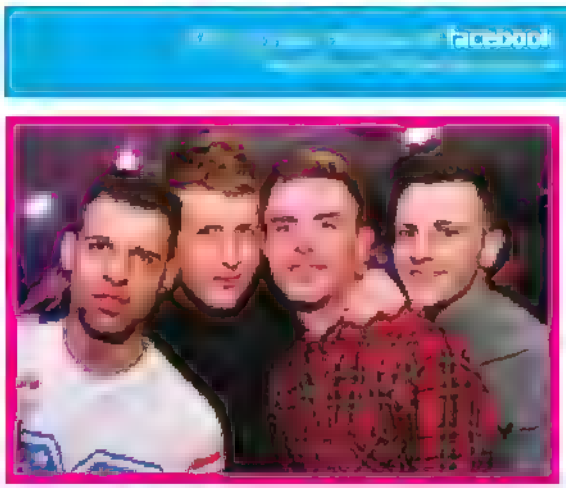
The venue offers three great outdoor areas too, as well as plenty of bars at which to quench your thirst. And don't worry that you might have to break the bank at the bar either. The Nightingale has some fantastic drinks offers throughout the evening.

So be sure to stop by if you fancy a fun-filled late-night boogie with your mates!

For more information about The Nightingale, visit www.nightingaleclub.co.uk.

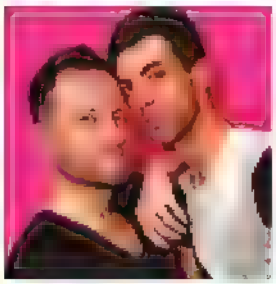




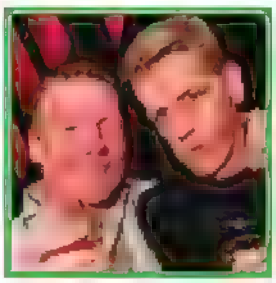







Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

The Village Inn: A great place to party the night away





When you're out and about in Birmingham's gay village, make sure you stop by The Village Inn on Hurst Street.

One of the city's most popular gay venues, The Village provides plenty of space in which to hang out with your mates and have a good time. If dancing's your thing, then there's a large dancefloor on which to throw some shapes. There's even a stage available, from which you can show off your moves to your fellow party-goers.

The Village has a great roster of DJs too, including Dr Lotty, DJ Richard Moon, DJ Deano and, of course, your hosts for the evening, Charlotte the Harlotte and Mrs Miss. These are the people who're certain to make your night out a real cracker.

The club plays a great mix of cheese, pop, commercial and dance, but if you're looking for something a bit harder - perhaps some R&B or urban - then take a trip downstairs to The Village Underground. Not only does it boast a great atmosphere, it's also open until the very late (or should that read 'early'?) hour of 8am on a Saturday!

The Village has some great drinks offers across the week end and throughout the week, so be sure to pop in.

For more information about The Village Inn, visit ***www.thevillageinn.co.uk***

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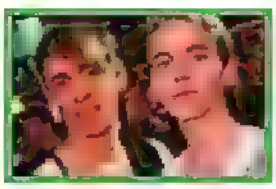
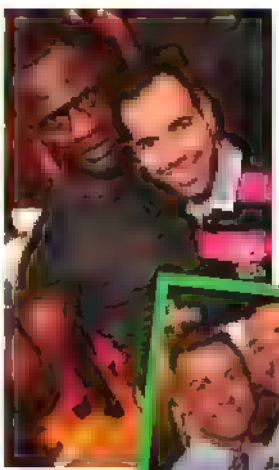
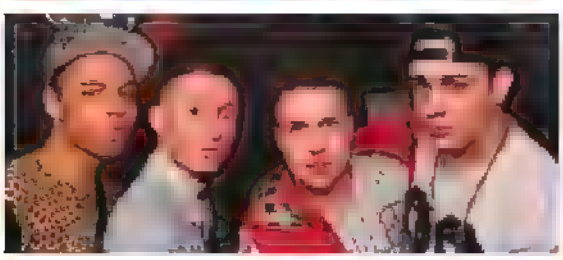






Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Celebrating six years of Birmingham's **Eden**!

Along with its multi-category Midlands Zone Readers' Awards success, Birmingham's Eden Bar had a second reason to party last month, with the popular venue celebrating its sixth birthday. And boy, did they do it in style!

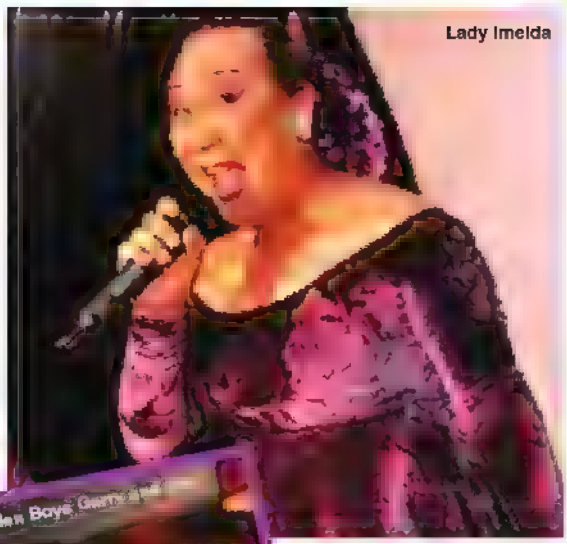
Customers old and new popped into the bar on the 29th of March to help Garry, Cal and the team celebrate the occasion, with brilliant entertainment being provided by La Voix and Lady Imelda.

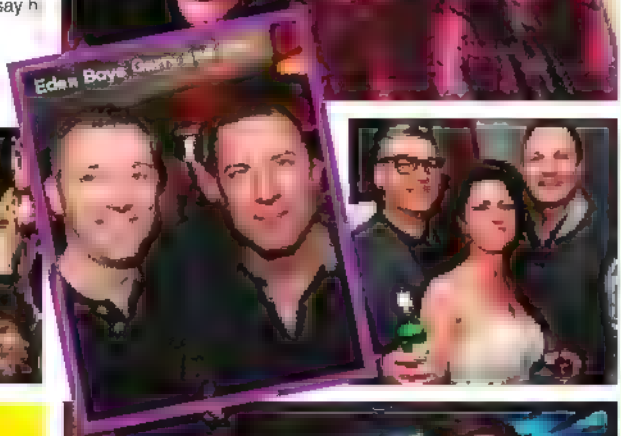
The event enticed hundreds of people through the doors, resulting in a seriously busy night for the bar.

This month's Eden Bar line-up includes Lip Gloss – the night for the trans* community and their friends – on Friday 4 April, and BearBrum on Saturday the 12th, complete with a sure-to-be-fun sports-kit theme and special guests Nancy Clench and the Bristol Bisons rugby team. Meanwhile, MidsBears takes place on Friday 18 April, with the marquee open and special drinks offers available. It's a great pre-XXL event!

So why not pop along and say hi to the team!

For more information, visit www.theedenbar.co.uk, or call them on 0121 622 1953.


Lady Imelda



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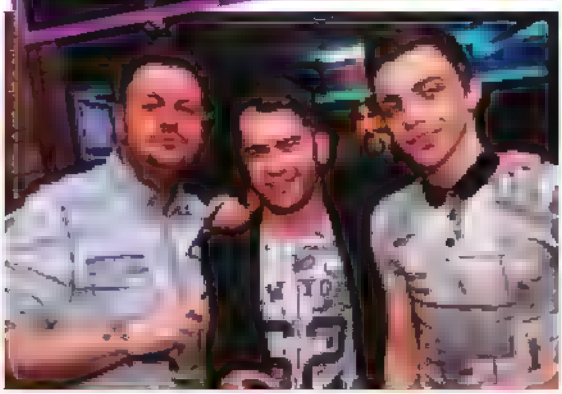
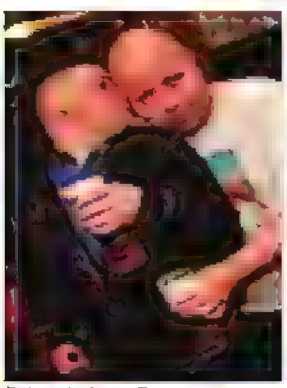
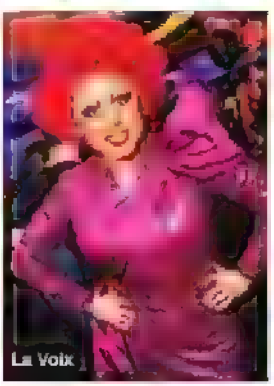
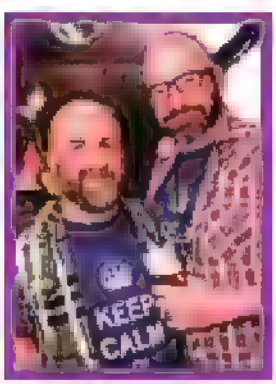
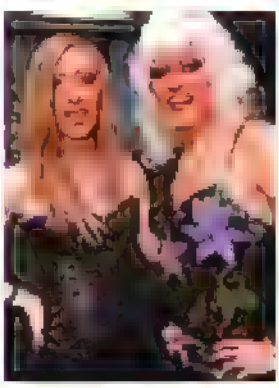










Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Open from 2pm every day.
116 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 6NB
0121 622 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

eden APRIL

FRI 4th

Lip Gloss

STAR STRUCK

Talent Contest

£500 Grand Prize

Six Heats
One Winner

THROWBACK PARTY night

Let's swing, rock and roll, do the punk and hip hop in the MARQUEE

SAT 12th

BEAR BRUM

In Marquee
£3 Entry - Raffle to win half door take

SPORTS KIT THEME

This month it's all about the Shorts Socks & Boots

SPECIAL GUEST
ALL THE WAY FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND
Nancy Clench
we also have the Bristol Bisons rugby team here

FRI 18th

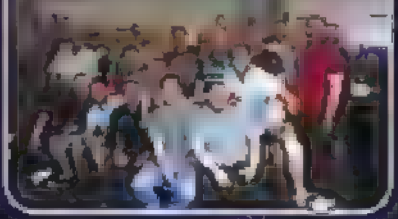
MidsBears

MONTHLY MEET UP

in the Marquee

all night long

Drink Offers



EVERY THURS

Back to the 90s with DJ Dan
Happy Hour from 9pm

DISCO & KARAOKE

EVERY FRI & SUN 9pm till late
WITH DJ NIKKI

SATURDAY CHART HITS WITH DJ DAN

9-2AM Every Saturday

2am Until 4am
Selected Bottles & Draught £2.90
Selected Spirits £3.10

WEEKEND CRAZY DRINK PRICES

MIDLANDS ZONE READERS' AWARDS

BEST GAY COMMUNITY BAR * BEST GAY VENUE FOR MEN *
BEST BIRMINGHAM GAY BAR * WINNERS *

Thank you for voting this year we are overwhelmed with the results. 13 Awards – 6 WINNERS. From Garry, Cal and all of the team at Eden a massive thank you.

Grab a crafty cocktail at The Loft Lounge

If you're looking for a nice, chilled-out, stylish place in which to start off your night out, pop into Birmingham's Loft Lounge for a drink or three.

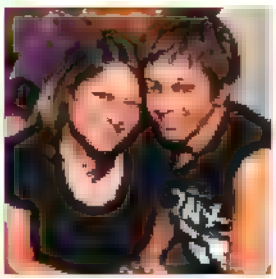
The New York-inspired venue is home not only to an award-winning restaurant but also a fantastic bar, boasting a wide variety of beers, spirits, wines and cocktails (not to mention coffee)

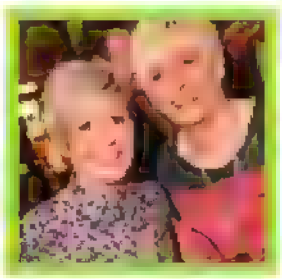
If you want something a bit more substantial to start the evening, book a table in the restaurant and sample some of the delights that the venue's culinary team has to offer. The restaurant is always busy on a weekend, so it's a good idea to book a table in advance!

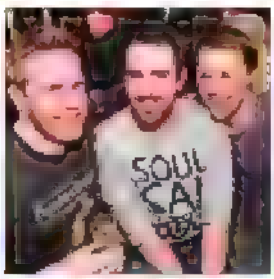
Nightingale DJ Simon Baker provides the perfect, chilled-out vibe for The Loft Lounge every Saturday night, and is sure to put you in a great mood for the night ahead

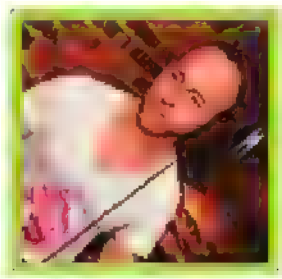
So stop by, say hello to the friendly team, grab a drink and get ready to party this weekend

For more information about The Loft Lounge, to view their menu and book a table, visit ***www.theloftlounge.co.uk***









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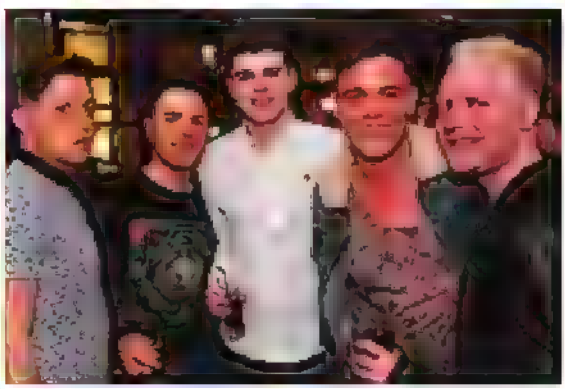

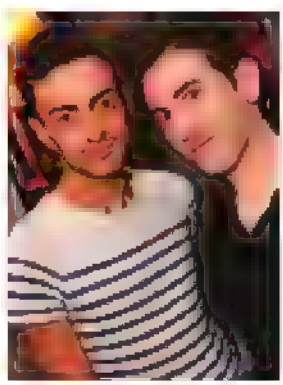

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Birmingham

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Holloway Circus,
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www.barjester.co.uk
/barjesterbirmingham

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Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair B11DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

CLUB DV8
16 [illegible] Essex
[illegible] B5 6RD
[illegible]0

THE CORE
p51
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk
/thecoreclubbirmingham

EDEN BAR
p63
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
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/eden.bar
See pictures on page 60

EQUATOR
Hurst St, B5 6JE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St,
B5 6SN Tel: 121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
p64
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 64

MISSING BAR
p59
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar
See pictures on page 58

THE NIGHTINGALE
p53 p54
Kent St, B'ham
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Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 62

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p45
Hurst Street,
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www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk
See pictures on page 58

THE VILLAGE INN
p56 p57
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
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72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

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Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
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GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
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Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT
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www.c21bar.co.uk
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Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

THE FACTORY
67 Bryan St
Hanley, ST1 5AF

PINK
93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 2[illegible]2772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market S, DY8 1AG
Tel: 01[illegible]826 5184 8

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Proud Crowd
15, Mon[illegible]mouthy
7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd,
Madeley, TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

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WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977
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THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

GORGEOUS CLUB
Scho[illegible] WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART
[illegible]
WV2 4LG
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row, WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

CURZONS
25 Curzon St, DE1 1LH
Tel: 01332 363739

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St, LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
165 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 [illegible]968

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
YOLO Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate, LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

PROUD @ GALLERY
Gay night every Thursday
20 Swan Street, LE1 5BL
Tel: 0115 [illegible]16088

MANSFIELD

CHEEKY MONKEY
Leeming St, NG18 1NG
Tel: 01623 633350

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St, NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604174

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Anns St, NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 3432

THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament
Street, NG1 3BA Gay
Friendly

NG1 CLUB
76-80 Lower Parliament
St, NG1 1EH
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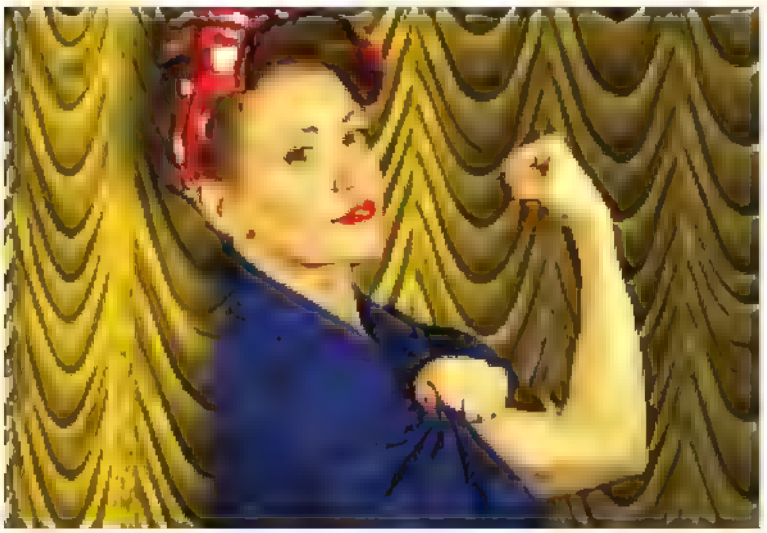
Happy Days

Television viewers of a certain age will well remember Happy Days, the legendary US sitcom about the Milwaukee-based Cunningham family. Set in the rock'n roll days of the 1950s, the show scored a massive hit with 1970s and 80s telly watchers, in the process making a star of Henry Winkler, the actor who immortalised the character of self-styled King of Cool Arthur 'The Fonz' Fonzarelli here played by Ben Freeman

This brand new musical promises to reacquaint fans of the TV series with all their favourite characters, including Potsie, Ralph Malph, Joanie, Chachi and Pinky Tuscadero, the latter being played on this occasion by former Sugababes and Atomic Kitten star Heidi Range, while Cheryl Baker features as Mrs Cunningham

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 22 - Sat 26 April,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 9 - Sat 14 June



Miss Nightingale: The Musical

Described as 'a heartwarming and hilarious cabaret-style story of love, loss and hope', Miss Nightingale is set during the Second World War and tells the story of feisty singer Maggie and her songwriter pal George. As London crumbles around them, Maggie yearns for the bright lights, while George keeps hidden a deep, dark secret. But when wealthy club owner Sir Frank sidles into their lives, everything changes, with the wannabe Maggie miraculously transformed into the satirical music hall star Miss Nightingale

mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Sat 12 April

Matt Cardle

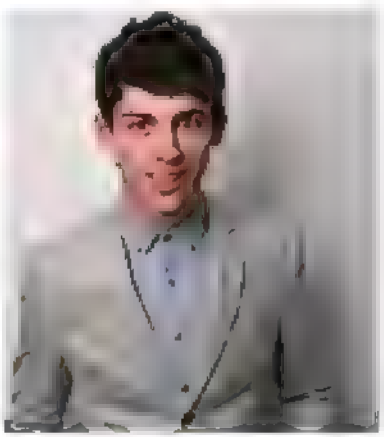
Like so many other winners of TV talent competitions, Matt Cardle has struggled to cash in on his fifteen minutes of fame. Singer-songwriter Cardle took the X Factor crown in 2010 and enjoyed three weeks at the top of the charts with his million-selling winner's single, When We Collide. Life's been a bit quieter for the Southampton-born performer since then, however, although he's proved popular enough to merit the release of three albums. His latest, Porcelain, came out in autumn 2013 and made a splash with the critics, many of whom feel it could be a real turning point in the singer's career

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 12 April,
Warwick Arts Centre, Tue 22 April,
The Place, Oakengates, Fri 25 April

Matt Richardson

With his 30th birthday still a far-distant milestone on the horizon (he's only twenty-two!), Matt Richardson is somewhat inevitably a work-in-progress. He's got all the necessary raw materials to make it big in the rough tough world of comedy, but is still in the process of honing both his material and his delivery. That said, if we didn't think he was 'one to watch' and well worth a gander, we wouldn't be drawing your attention to him. Confident and engaging, he has the enviable knack of swiftly arriving at the comedy heartland of an anecdote, an admirable talent that ensures the next laugh is never too far away

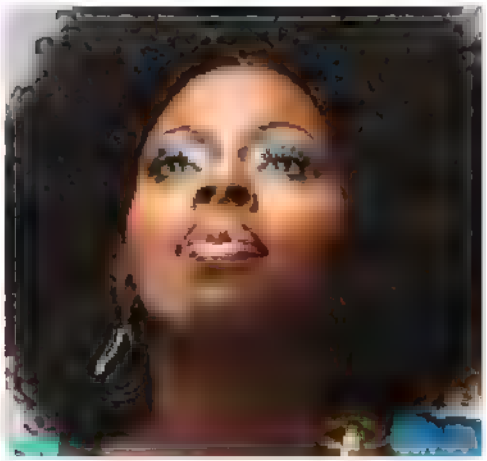
Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sat 5 April,
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sun 6 April,
Solihull Arts Complex, Thurs 24 April,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 22 May



Rufus Wainwright

Blending the deeply personal with sharp social commentary, Rufus Wainwright has established himself as one of modern music's shining talents. The American-Canadian singer-songwriter has recorded numerous albums, including the Juno Award-winning Rufus Wainwright (1998) and Poses (2001). The son of folk singers Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, Wainwright came out as gay while he was still a teenager, and this desire for openness and honesty in his life is something which translates extremely effectively to his music. This intimate solo show promotes his upcoming album, The Best Of Rufus Wainwright.
Support comes from Lucy Wainwright Roche

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 27 April



Angie Stone

It hasn't all been plain sailing for Angie Stone during her thirty-five years in the limelight. The American soul diva has had her fair share of health problems, including the inflammatory cell condition Sarcoidosis and Type 2 diabetes. On the upside, she's released numerous top ten albums, sold over five million records worldwide, and starred as Big Mama Morton in the hit musical Chicago. She stops off at The Drum as part of her first ever UK tour and will be performing classic hits including Brother, No More Rain and Wish I Didn't Miss You.

The Drum, Birmingham, Sun 20 April

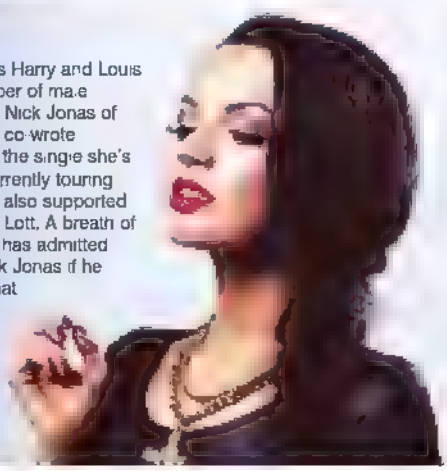
Justin Timberlake

Just confirmed to headline this year's V Festival, Justin Timberlake is donning a suit and tie to delight audiences across the globe on his 20/20 Experience World Tour. The multi-Grammy and Emmy award-winning Timberlake made a triumphant return to music in 2013 with not one but two studio albums, and is a man of many talents. Known for his breakout movie roles in The Social Network and Friends With Benefits, he's also co-owner of myspace, as well as a record label, restaurants, and clothing line William Rast. Shimmying across stages for nine UK shows, he plays two Birmingham dates

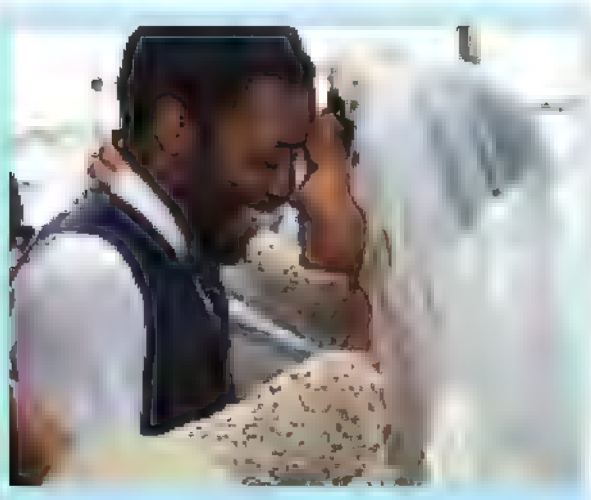
LG Arena, Birmingham, Fri 11 - Sat 12 April

Tich

Counting One Direction's Harry and Louis as fans, Tich has a number of male celebrity fans - including Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers, who co-wrote Breathe In, Breathe Out, the single she's releasing this month. Currently touring with James Arthur, she's also supported JLS, Olly Murs and Pixie Lott. A breath of fresh air, the 20-year-old has admitted that she once asked Nick Jonas if he had any brothers, and that she cried throughout a Britney Spears concert. Catch the diminutive starlet in Shrewsbury



The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Sat 12 April



Half Of A Yellow Sun CERT 15 (111 mins)

Starring **Thandie Newton, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Anika Noni Rose, Joseph Mawle, John Boyega** Directed by **Biyi Bandele (Nigeria/UK)**

It is perhaps ironic that great African parts are so often played by the English. Winnie Mandela has been played by the London-born Sophie Okonedo and Naomie Harris, Nelson Mandela by Idris Elba and (wince) Muhammad Ahmad by Laurence Olivier (in Khartoum). Now comes the adaptation of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Orange Prize-winning novel set during the Nigerian-Biafran War of 1967-1970. While Adichie and the director Bandele are Nigerian, the two leads are played by the London-born Thandie Newton and Chiwetel Ejiofor as Olanna and her lover Odenigbo. While they are both very good, Bandele (a prominent novelist and playwright) is unable to draw convincing performances from the rest of his cast and the film, at best, is workmanlike. And, spanning most of the 1960s, it fails to find a cohesive narrative, although under the guidance of cinematographer Out 11 April

The Last Days On Mars CERT 15 (98 mins)

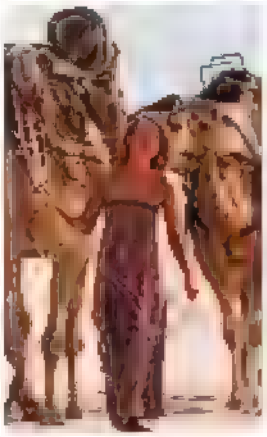
Starring **Liev Schreiber, Elias Koteas, Romola Garai, Goran Kostic, Olivia Williams** Directed by **Ruairi Robinson (Ireland/UK/USA)**

Man has finally made it to Mars and after six months one of the eight-man team makes a startling discovery. With just nineteen hours before they are due to return to earth, Marko (Kostić) finds what he believes to be proof of bacteria life. And then everything goes pear-shaped. So, where's Sandra Bullock when you need her?
Out 11 April

Tracks CERT 15

Starring **Mia Wasikowska, Adam Driver** Directed by **John Curran (Australia)**

In 2006 John Curran directed a sumptuous and accomplished adaptation of W Somerset Maugham's novel The Painted Veil. Here he tackles the altogether more tricky 1980 memoir by Robyn Davidson which chronicles her one thousand, seven hundred-mile trek across the Australian Outback with just a dog, four camels and the National Geographic photographer Rick Smolan. The desert scenery promises to look stunning and Mia Wasikowska is always an engaging cinematic presence. Out 25 April



The Amazing Spiderman 2 CERT tbc

Starring **Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Jamie Foxx, Dane DeHaan, Campbell Scott, Embeth Davidtz, Colm Feore, Paul Giamatti, Sally Field, Martin Sheen, Felicity Jones, Chris Cooper** Directed by **Marc Webb (USA)**

The trailer looks great, the cast is mouthwatering and Marc Webb returns from his duties on the first film (the 2012 reboot, that is). This should be big. Humongous even. This time Spidey (aka Peter Parker) has his web full as he competes against a slew of super-villains, including Electro (Foxx), the Green Goblin (DeHaan) and the Rhino (Giamatti). Let's just hope that so much is not too much of a good thing. The budget is said to be north of $200m (!) lion. In 3D (obviously) Out 18 April

Vampire Academy: Blood Sisters CERT tbc

Starring **Zoey Deutch, Danila Kozlovsky, Lucy Fry, Dominic Sherwood, Olga Kurylenko, Joely Richardson** Directed by **Mark Waters (USA)**

Mark Waters directed Mean Girls (2004) and the girls don't get much meaner than these bloodsuckers. Our hero(ine) is Rose Hathaway (Deutch), a Dhampir who, as you know, is a half human/half vampire thingy and actually quite a peaceful sort. And she's here to protect her own kind from the more disruptive, hell-for-leather Strigoi undead. Based on the novel by Richelle Mead. Out 18 April

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23/4

G.B.F

24/4

Rosie

25/4

Subterrege

25/4

The Happy Sad

26/4

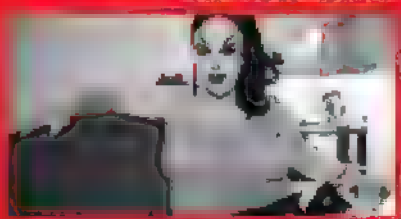
The New Black

26-27/4

Stranger by the Lake

26/4

Cupcakes



27/4

I am Divine

27/4

Reaching for the Moon

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The SHOUT Festival of Queer Cinema returns for 2014

For the past five years, SHOUT has curated, promoted and showcased the best in LGBT arts and culture throughout Birmingham and the West Midlands. Having produced four cultural festivals and a dedicated film festival, SHOUT is bringing its second festival of Queer Cinema to Birmingham from 23 to 27 April.

SHOUT believes in championing the work of queer filmmakers and providing a platform for their output. This year's Film Festival presents the best in contemporary LGBT cinema from around the globe, and invites audiences to get caught up in the drama.

A diverse range of documentaries, dramas and short films is on offer at multiple venues across Birmingham, including [illegible] and The Electric.

Festival Producer and Programmer [illegible] Robinson said: "We're incredibly pleased with the line-up of films this year, especially our fabulous opening night film, G.B.F."

SHOUT's festival audiences can [illegible] of the recipient of the SHOUT Film Festival Award.

Our Top Five Picks

G.B.F.

Wednesday 23 April at mac, Birmingham 8:15pm

USA, 2013 - Directed by Darren Stein
Running Time: 98 minutes.

When Tanner (Michael J Willett) unwittingly becomes his high school's first openly gay student, social warfare erupts, with three prom queen hopefuls competing for the must-have teen-girl accessory - the G.B.F. Tanner finds himself choosing between his skyrocketing popularity and the old friends he's leaving behind. A brilliant send-up of high school clique culture, featuring cameo performances by Megan Mullally (Will And Grace) and Natasha Lyonne (Orange Is The New Black).

The Happy Sad

Friday 25 April at mac, Birmingham 6pm.

USA, 2013 - Directed by Rodney Evans.
Running Time: 87 minutes.

In the age of polyamory and blurred lines of sexuality, what really makes for a happy relationship? Two young couples in New York - one black and gay, one white and heterosexual - find their lives intertwined as they create new relationship norms, explore sexual identity, and redefine monogamy. Based on the play by Ken Urban, The Happy Sad is an intriguing exploration of the boundaries and fluidity of human sexuality in modern urban life.

Plus **Spooners** (USA, 2013. Directed by Bryan Horch. Running Time: 13 minutes) - Nelson is forced to come out in a spectacular way while shopping for a new bed.

For more information, to download the SHOUT Film Festival brochure and to see the full programme of screenings, visit

www.shoutfestival.co.uk

The New Black

Saturday 26 April at mac, Birmingham 2pm

USA, 2013 - Directed by Yoruba Richen.
Running Time: 80 minutes.

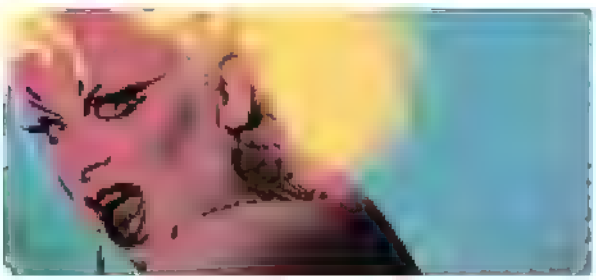
The African-American community in the USA is currently grappling with gay rights issues. Following the historic fight to win marriage equality The New Black documents activists, families and clergy on both sides of the campaign to legalise gay marriage in Maryland. This compelling film examines institutional homophobia in the black community's churches and reveals the Christian right wing's exploitation of this phenomenon in order to pursue an anti-gay political agenda.

Stranger By The Lake

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 April at The Electric Cinema

France, 2013 - Directed by Alain Giraudie.
Running Time: 97 minutes

Summer time. A cruising spot for gay men, tucked away on the shores of a secluded and picturesque lake in rural France. Franck, an attractive young man, falls in love with the striking but dangerous Michel. Winner of Best Director and the Queer Palm at Cannes, Alain Guiraudie's erotically charged thriller is a compelling and provocative piece of contemporary cinema. Contains scenes of an explicit sexual nature.



I Am Divine

Sunday 27 April at mac, Birmingham. 2pm

USA, 2013 - Directed by Jeffrey Schwarz.
Running Time: 90 minutes

I Am Divine is the story of Divine (aka Harris Glenn Milstead), from his humble beginnings as a teased and overweight Baltimore youth to his career as an internationally recognised drag superstar. Spitting in the face of the status quos of body image, gender identity, sexuality and preconceived notions of beauty, Divine was the ultimate outsider-turned-underground-royalty. A laugh-out-loud cinema experience from the master of queer icon biopics, Jeffrey Schwarz (Vito).

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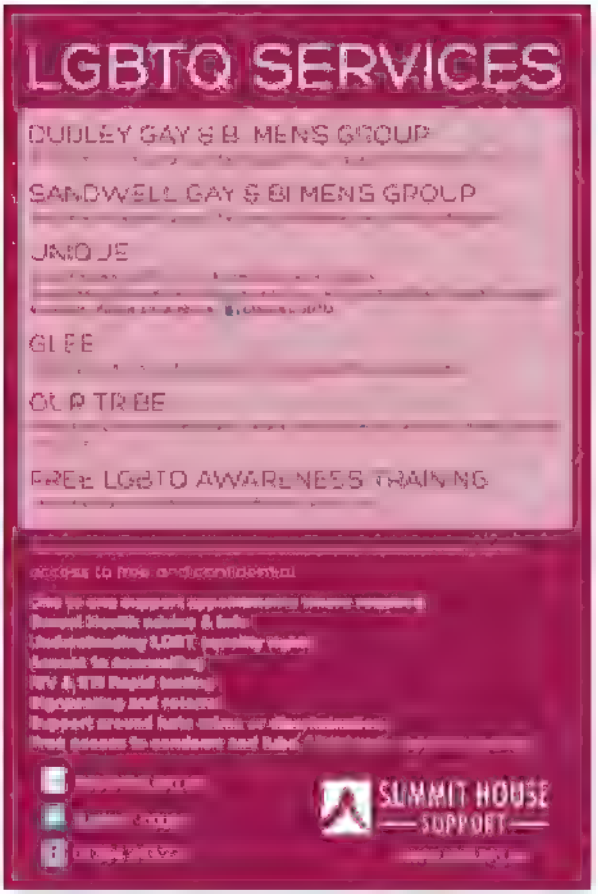
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DVDs

Lose Your Head (18)

Like thousands of other young tourists Luis arrives in Berlin from Madrid fresh from his break-up with his boyfriend, looking to party the pain away on the city's infamous club scene.
However, Luis's uncanny resemblance to a missing Greek student gets him involved with a strange and elusive Russian, who may or may not know the whereabouts of the missing young man.
What begins as a romantic adventure quickly turns into a desperate chase for the truth, as Luis begins to lose his mind...

Reaching For The Moon (15)

Set in a world of 1950s glamour, this award-winning drama recounts the extraordinary relationship between Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Elizabeth Bishop and Brazilian architect Lota de Macedo Soares. In search of inspiration, Bishop leaves America having accepted the invitation of an old college friend to stay with her on her sprawling country estate in Brazil. But she hasn't counted on meeting the love of her life – her friend's partner.
At first, the fiery personalities of the two women collide, leading to passion-fuelled debates – but animosity quickly turns to attraction, then desire.
Reaching For The Moon is an intimate portrait of two remarkable artists as they discover the most incredible love

...and something to read

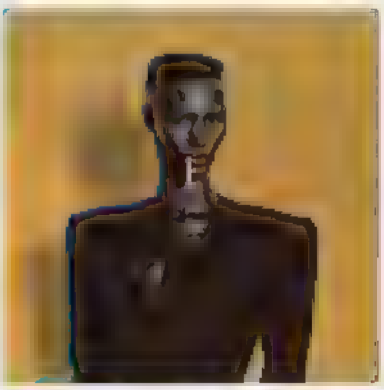
Perv: The Sexual Deviant In All Of Us
by Jesse Bering, PHD

In this eye-opening book, psychologist Jesse Bering argues that we are all sexual deviants on one level or another. He introduces us to, among others, the young woman who falls madly in love with the Eiffel Tower, a young man addicted to seductive sneezes, and a pair of deeply affectionate identical twins. Bering challenges us to move beyond our attitudes about 'deviant' sex and consider the alternative: what would happen if we rose above our fears and revulsions and accepted our true natures? A groundbreaking look at our complex relationship with our carnal urges, Perv brings hidden desires into the spotlight.

New Music

The New Classic
Iggy Azalea

This is blonde Australian beauty Iggy Azalea's debut studio album. It's supported by four singles, three of which (Work, Bounce and Change Your Life) smashed their way into the Top 20. A must for any fan of hip-hop!



Nightclubbing
Grace Jones

Remastered using the latest studio technology, Nightclubbing is indisputably the album on which Grace Jones's substantial musical legacy rests. Justifiably considered to be one of the greatest albums of all time, it features Walking In The Rain, Demolition Man and all-time classic Pull Up To The Bumper.

NOW That's What I Call Music 87
Various Artists

NOW That's What I Call Music is back, with the first numbered edition of 2014. NOW 87 won't disappoint, featuring the biggest recent chart hits from the best global pop stars.

Nottingham NHS Trust given vote of confidence by its LGBT patients

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patients cared for by Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust say they are treated with respect and dignity, according to a survey.

The Nottingham Post reports: 'Those questioned by gay charity Stonewall also said they felt comfortable telling their health care professional about their sexual orientation.

'New figures show the trust features within the top half of Stonewall's Healthcare Equality Index, which measures how well NHS organisations value and promote the principles of equality and diversity.

'Out of 44 healthcare organisations, the Nottingham trust was placed 20th.

'In the survey, 76 percent of respondents felt they were treated with dignity and respect while being cared for in Nottingham. 53 percent said they felt comfortable telling their health professional their sexual orientation, and 63 percent said hospitals displayed a non-discrimination policy that included sexual orientation.

'Giles Matsell, head of equality and diversity for Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "Understanding people and their needs helps us to deliver better services."

Coventry MP in bid to help drive down undiagnosed HIV in the West Midlands

MP for Coventry South Jim Cunningham has taken a public HIV test at HIV & sexual health charity Terrence Higgins Trust's centre on Quinton Road, Coventry, in a bid to encourage more local people to test for the virus.

Mr Cunningham was given a simple finger-prick blood test and received his negative result in minutes.

In 2012 there were more than 6,500 people living with HIV in the West Midlands. One in five of these were undiagnosed and therefore unaware of their condition. Someone with HIV who is undiagnosed is at greater risk of ill health, and also far more likely to pass on the virus.

Mr Cunningham took the public test to encourage people at increased risk of HIV to use Terrence Higgins Trust's free and confidential rapid HIV testing services.

Terrence Higgins Trust's 'Fastest' clinic takes place every Monday, from 5pm to 8pm. Those who attend the clinic are given information and support before and after the test, and those who test positive are quickly referred to a specialist clinic. People who aren't able to attend the clinic on Mondays can call the charity to make an appointment at other times during the week.

Mr Cunningham said: "I was glad to take a HIV test to show just how easy this test is. I would urge anyone who is sexually active to take a HIV test. The Terrence Higgins Trust is leading the way, and I'm happy to give my support to their important work. The HIV test is free, quick and easy at the clinic, and we should do all we can to ensure rapid diagnosis of HIV. One in five of those living with HIV in the West Midlands in 2012 were not aware they had the condition. This quick test can make a huge difference."

Lorraine Gawlowicz, Centre Manager for Terrence Higgins Trust in Coventry, said: "We are delighted that Mr Cunningham is showing his support for the effort to drive down undiagnosed HIV locally. There really are far more reasons to know your HIV status than not to. If you're HIV positive, getting a diagnosis unlocks all the support and treatment that you need to live a long and healthy life. We also know that the vast majority of HIV transmissions are passed on by people who aren't yet aware they have the virus. So if everyone at risk tests, we can start to see new infections fall."

Leicester's Trade Sexual Health launches new social support group for South Asian gay and bisexual men

Following on from Trade Sexual Health's RAP (Rainbow Asian Project) findings, the Leicester-based charity is now running a group for South Asian gay and bi men, offering a safe space in which to relax and chat with others.

The group also has an active social calendar that can help members create, as well as access, a range of advice and support around health and wellbeing.

The group meets on the last Sunday of every month, from 5pm till 8pm at a Leicester city centre location.

For more information, contact yatz@tradesexualhealth.com or call 0116 254 1747.

However that's not all that Trade has to offer the LGBT community – there's a whole host of other social groups available too.

Hi5 is a social group for gay and bisexual men affected by HIV. This includes men who're newly diagnosed and couples where one partner is HIV positive and one is negative.

The Hi5 group provides a safe social network advice on wellbeing, employment and HIV-specific issues, as well as somewhere fun and informative to share experiences with others.

The group takes place once a month. To find out when the next group meeting is scheduled (and where), contact Alex De Winter on 0116 254 1747 or email a.ex@tradesexua.health.com.

For young people aged between 13 and 19 years of age who identify as lesbian, gay, bi, trans or are questioning their sexuality, Trade offers 1st Out, a group providing a range of help and support around the issue of coming out as well as a calendar of social events and activities.

1st Out takes place every Thursday evening between 7pm and 9pm at the Leicester LGBT Centre.

For more information, email firstout@leicesterlgbtcentre.org or give Tim Peters a call on 0116 254 7412.

Trade Sexual Health works with the LGB community of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. It offers a range of free and confidential support and advice services around sexual health and HIV information.

It also provides one-to-one emotional and practical support, as well as men's sexual health clinics.

For more information about Trade Sexual Health, give them a call on 0116 254 1747 or visit www.tradesexualhealth.com

[redacted]

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ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday 5 at 7pm Tel 01902 425092

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone Contact acting.out@btinternet.com or visit www.actingoutbrum.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group Contact deca1bbdeff@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre 8 pm e:hadenshouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Contact info@bgso.org.uk or visit: www.bgso.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month Tel 01384 8[redacted]

GAPP Gay and Performing Proudly) Birmingham. Call Mike 07545 507791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Lion Tel Bubba 0[redacted]77 6[redacted]881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir Meets every Tues in Leicester Call: Chris on 07740 8[redacted]48

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm Tel Jayne 01902 5[redacted]

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men Call Jon 07974 477206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir Call Carolyn [redacted]828 647384 or Kevin 07793 3[redacted]

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading group 1st Monday monthly @ 5.45pm. Tel: 0121 558 0497

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e:jenna.leicesterlgbtcentre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am Walsall Central Library Contact Ann 01922 653121

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday afternoon, 2-4pm. Federation House, 39 King St. Walsall Tel: 07716 273748

WS MIDLANDS LGBT Social group. Every 1st Tues monthly 7-9pm in Walsall Tel: 07595 661557

BRUM BI GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in. Tel 07532 385760.

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month. e: brumdiningout@hotmail.com

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene Call 024 76 224292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester www.dmulgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.derbyshire.gov.uk/councilandlocalgovernment/employee_network/lgbt

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social group Tel 01332 207704

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided. Call Matt Barlow on 1384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call 08703 245121 Birmingham contact 0121 551 5[redacted]61

EVERGREEN LGBT Social group in Bham Tel 0[redacted]749 41[redacted]09

FAN LGBT Social Events Group Northants www.fannorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call Simon on 0121 365 4[redacted]66

GAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton Twice monthly Thurs 8-11pm Tel 0[redacted]902 42[redacted]92

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community Social group meets every Thurs [redacted] Centre 7.30 Tel 0[redacted]56 6[redacted]3

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop-in The Health Centre Aubrey Street Hereford No appointment necessary

HIV (HIGH 5) Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire Tel 01 6 254 1747

I ME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton. 2nd Sunday monthly. Tel: 0[redacted]817 3[redacted]62

LADS CAFE Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call 0[redacted]52 2214[redacted]

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton Every Monday 6.30pm Tel 07788 6[redacted]66

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Planting flowers for all to enjoy Meet every Tues @ thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 01 6 291 61[redacted]

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30. Contact 01159476868.

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community West Midlands Social Group Tel 0121 446 [redacted]086

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since 1995 Call 08450 [redacted]00050

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West Bham LGBT Group Offers non scene social events and activities Call 0[redacted]6 2[redacted]71

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm [redacted] Wolves Tel 01902 42[redacted]92

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non-Scene Group 4th Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243[redacted]

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAY 1st Mon monthly at QMM 3rd Monday monthly at Coffeehouse, Shrewsbury.

THIRD WAY Social Group for Bi people over 18 Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton 7 pm Tel 01902 42[redacted]92

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT social group Call 0[redacted]79 86[redacted]84

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.brewery-vap.org.uk

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group Over 18s only e: sian@walsall[redacted]hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society Organises events to and around the university campuses e: hello@warwickpride.org

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2012 Email bcenet[redacted]@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST Campaigning and lobbying, promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views e: davevinney[redacted]@lgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For trustees Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: davevinney[redacted]@lgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives. Call: 0121 446 [redacted]086

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project e: dave[redacted]@gaybirmingham-remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel: 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 02476 492711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in. Call 01782 4[redacted]

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community Tel 0 21 622 2592

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester Call 01 6 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire Call 0115 934 9[redacted]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Hosts events for professionals and the LGBT community Tel 01 6 254 [redacted]47

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 30. Rainbows Coventry. Call: James on 0[redacted]4 448[redacted]7 or Nicholas on 024 6 231999

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people Call 0116 254 7412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm Tel 01902 42[redacted]92

LGBY 50+ South Staffs social group for people 5[redacted]+ e:[redacted]@lordsandladdies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am - 1pm Call Trevor on 0[redacted]779 86 640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men Call Trevor on 0[redacted]54 8[redacted]648

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature (over 40) Gay and Bi sexual men in Walsall Every Monday 1-4pm Tel 0[redacted]902 42[redacted]92

OLDER LBG Women's network social group Derby based Call 0[redacted]779 86[redacted]84

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel 01902 42[redacted]92

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT Tel: 01782 2[redacted]98

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop-in Classes Tel 0121 449 [redacted]29

BIRMINGHAM LGCM Gay Christian Organisation group Tel 0[redacted]943 [redacted]345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact: The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

DERBY QUEST for Spirituality Sun 5-6.30pm Tel 0[redacted]76 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham Call 0 21 454 4419 Wolverhampton Call 0[redacted]54 1[redacted]864

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends Call 07900 421915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christian movement Tel 0 21 4[redacted] 1[redacted] or text 07943 0[redacted]345

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principles www.qalf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national confidential telephone helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics Tel 0808 808 [redacted]64

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans An Pagan path welcome Call Rob 0[redacted]443 323989

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS. Support group for lesbian and gay christians e:[redacted]@hotmail.com or call 079 4[redacted]66

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT friendly Rugby Team Call Andy 0[redacted]08 3[redacted]16 or visit birminghambullsrfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham. www.bournvilleladies.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team Call Gareth 0116 2[redacted]37

LGBT Community Indoor Football Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-8.30pm. Tel. 0121 643 0821

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton Tel 01902 42[redacted]92

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays Contact gocwm[redacted]yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham. Call Andy on 0[redacted]76 346141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's oldest Gay Swim Group. For info call 0 21 346 [redacted]62

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOIS Gay football team founded in 2006 Call 0 8[redacted]8 0 4962

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call Andy on 0[redacted]84 2[redacted]167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel 0[redacted]902 42[redacted]92

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club Tel Andy on 07[redacted]5 [redacted]

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week www.bculgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union. www.udsu.lgbt.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel 0121 204 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University Contact Alex e: arp19@leicester.ac.uk or Hayley e: [redacted]president@[redacted]ar.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays e: lgbtq@guild.bham.ac.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS A new network e: Birmingham[redacted]networks.com Become a member today

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women centered book group Meets 1st sun of the month 3-5pm. Tel 0121 622 32[redacted]

BI-WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact Heather at space318808@hotmail.com

BOOTWOMEN. Walks in the Midlands area. Call 07505 [redacted]

L BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly Tel 0 817 3[redacted]62

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club every 3rd Sunday monthly www.ladlair.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local

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To find out more about all these organisations and their website and contact details

pub. e:jillygaiors@blueyonder.co.uk

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40s meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at The Bunker Tavern, Wednesbury. Suzanne: [illegible]

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group, Wolverhampton. Tel: 0782 4[illegible]92

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN [illegible] for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 0[illegible] 2 1964 4

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call [illegible] 2[illegible]98

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets once a month, e mail myself [illegible]@outlook.com

Youth Groups

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Project. Tel: 0332 2[illegible]704

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP [illegible] 15 [illegible] Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

GALAXY Group for lesbian, Gay and bisexual young people aged 13-19 and under in Shropshire, Telford and North Staffordshire Call: 0800 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 0782 221410

INSIDE OUT Sandwell. A youth group for LGBT and questioning young people aged 13-19. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for young LGBT people aged 13-19. Tel: 0115 9[illegible]

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people under the age of 21 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call: Ruth B 0[illegible]6

OUT EAST Youth group in Burton-upon-Trent. Tel: 07[illegible]81

SHOUT Sandwell. An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young people aged [illegible] Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBT people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin: 01384 24[illegible]

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e: info@x2y.org.uk

HIV/AIDS Helplines

ADPLUS A county wide support service for people living with and affected by HIV. Call: 01782 [illegible]

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 5670 (5 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual health and well being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0[illegible]

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01[illegible]

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and [illegible] Summit House in the University of Wolverhampton Tel: 0[illegible] 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those living with and affected by HIV and STIs Birmingham: 0[illegible] 6[illegible] 6440 Coventry: 0[illegible] 6[illegible] 6440 Nottingham: 0115 8[illegible] 0121 Telford: 01952 [illegible] Wolves: 0[illegible] 1 8 8

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services and support for gay, bisexual and MSM men living with or at risk of HIV. Call: Matt Barlow 07960 [illegible]

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing and specialises in those in Service every morning from 9 am - 11.45am Tel: 0121 4[illegible] 3300 or 0121 4[illegible] 24[illegible]

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and sexual health and well being. Call: 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GOAL STREET [illegible] Monday - Friday. Call 1[illegible] for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health [illegible] at Heroes Health [illegible] Birmingham. Call Matt on [illegible]

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs. Tel: 01782 266996

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD [illegible] 8445 or [illegible] 6515

RAINBOW SUPPORT HEREFORDSHIRE Free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for [illegible] Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help [illegible] who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe Community classes, Events and more Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE [illegible] Sandwell. A free sexual health service for Gay and Bisexual men Tel: 0[illegible] 43 3444 4

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel: 0121 248 2000

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for Gay Bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley Call: Matt Barlow 07960 [illegible]

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing and specialises in those in Service every morning from 9 am - 11.45am Tel: 0121 4[illegible] 3300 or 0121 4[illegible] 24[illegible]

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and sexual health and well being. Call: 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GOAL STREET [illegible] Monday - Friday. Call 1[illegible] for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health [illegible] at Heroes Health [illegible] Birmingham. Call Matt on [illegible]

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough Call: 0121 [illegible]

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and support Call: Matt Barlow [illegible]

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in Call: 0300 123 [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for [illegible] and support for those affected by HIV & STIs including sexual health testing services. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and sexual [illegible] services to the LGBT community Tel: 01922 [illegible]

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham City Centre Tel: 0[illegible] 6[illegible]

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project provides free confidential advice & support. Tel: 01905 681751

Social Groups

ABplus [illegible] Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday every month for social group and support. Call: Peter on [illegible]

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery [illegible] Call: [illegible] 8 [illegible]9

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in [illegible] Tel: Maureen on [illegible]

BEAM Black ethnic & Asian Mentally [illegible] and support group in Leicester Call: 0116 254 4[illegible]

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND [illegible] Tuesday of every month. Based in Nuneaton. Call [illegible] 6 14th Mon. Fri 7.30pm-10pm

CHANGE'S Based in Wolverhampton Call Paul on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families Call: [illegible]9 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: [illegible] 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men Call: 0121 44[illegible]

HIV (HIGH 5) An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP [illegible] Telford & Wrekin. Call: [illegible] 2[illegible]

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP [illegible] Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 [illegible]

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, senior Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 [illegible] Email: [illegible]

KETTERING OUT AND PROUD ASSOCIATION Organises support in the Kettering area. Call: 07877 [illegible]

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Hold numerous support groups Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP The support is for anybody in the gay community who has [illegible] Tel: Tony on [illegible] 0[illegible] or [illegible] 196842

LGBT NETWORK Based on Telford & Wrekin [illegible] Tel: 01782 266996

LGBT NETWORK [illegible] Holistic support for [illegible] in the Black community Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING [illegible] Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month Tel: [illegible] 4[illegible]2

MIND OUT Mental Health [illegible] in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday, monthly Tel: [illegible] 4[illegible]2

NATURAL HEALING For [illegible] and physical health [illegible] African Caribbean Women only. Tel: [illegible]

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bi-monthly evening support [illegible] Parents of [illegible] Meets in Coventry on the 1st Wednesday Tel: [illegible] 8324[illegible]

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink [illegible]

RAINBOW OUTSIDERS Support [illegible] for [illegible] who are/have been personal, past & present. Telephone: 08 [illegible] 5

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual [illegible] domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0[illegible] 200 1695

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's [illegible] Every Friday Tel: 0[illegible]84 243220

STONEWALL Free information service Tel: 08000 50 20 20

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone: Tel: 0[illegible]842 070 240

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429600

Trans Support

GENDER MATTERS Drop-in every Thurs Tel: 0[illegible]2 744424

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for [illegible] Butterflies Leicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The west Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email [illegible] or visit the website [illegible] to [illegible]

SANCTUARY Providing support and groups for all help Tel: 0[illegible]4

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs www.staystrong.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS support and group for people who are Trans Transvestite or Transgender Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly Tel: 0[illegible] 4[illegible]2

To get your LGBT Group listed
Call Adrian Parker on
01743 281714

ESCORT & SAUNA

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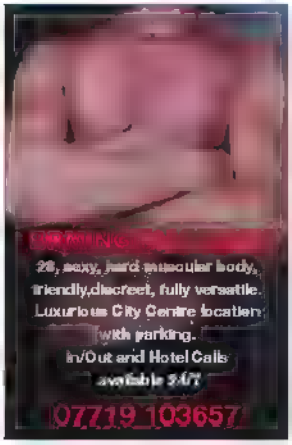

GREENHOUSE
Tel: 0121 568 6126
Willenhall Road, Darlaston,
West Midlands, WS10 8JG
gay-sauna.com

SPARTAN
Tel: 0121 382 3345
127 George Road, Erdington
Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

UNIT 2
Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

For information
Check out the above venue adverts in this issue

CELTS
Tel: 0116 285 6000
38 Narborough Road
Leicester LE3 0BQ
celts-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM
Tel: 01332 209150
8-9 St Mary's Gate Derby
DE1 3JF
citysteam.co.uk

CITY STEAM 2
Tel: 0115 959 8603
1 Lower Parliament Street
Nottingham NG1 1ER
citysteam.co.uk

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
Tel: 01384 442030
4-5 Lower High Street
Stourbridge West Midlands
DY8 1TE
heroeshealthclub.com

Tel: 01623 422257
71 Ratcliffe Gate Mansfield
Nottinghamshire NG18 2LB
manzfields.co.uk

CITY CELTS
Tel: 0116 262 7770
39 New Bond St Leicester
LE1 4RQ
celts-sauna.co.uk

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May 1st & 16th
June 5th & 20th
July 3rd & 18th

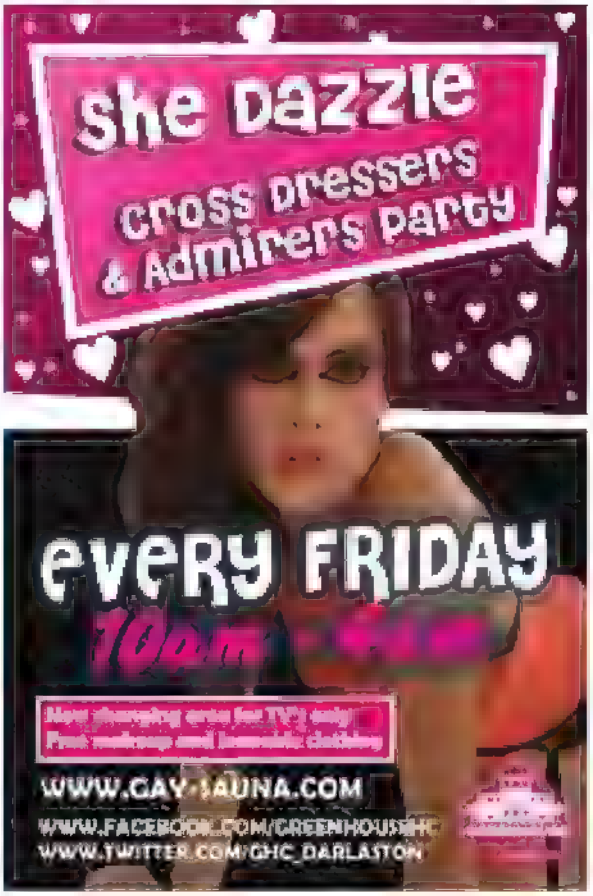
first Thursday of the month: 2pm - 9pm
third Friday of the month: 5pm - 8pm

clinic at Chameleons
free & confidential sexual health screening
2nd Monday of the month 3 - 6pm

clinic at the RetroClub
free & confidential sexual health screening
Ring for details

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE FROM WALSALL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SERVICE

Walsall HIV Team 07963 124 445
morrscolin@walsall.gov.uk - melsmore@walsall.gov.uk
Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41



ASYLUM
1st Saturday of
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FETISH NIGHT.
Dress Code:
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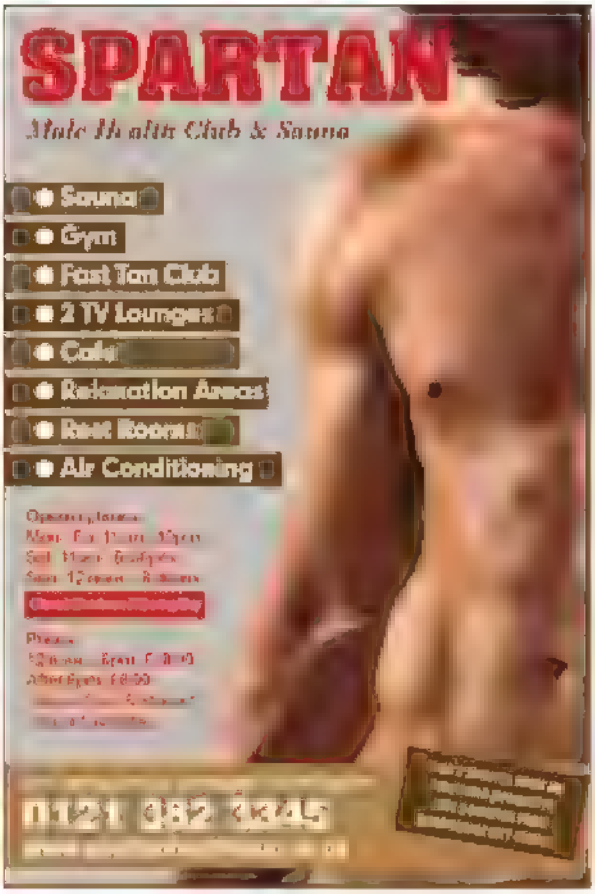
WWW.TWITTER.COM/GHC_DARLASTON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1st Saturday Of The Month
FREE BUFFET
Fetish Wear from 7pm Onwards
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tel: 0121 568 6126
email: darlaston@gay-sauna.com

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23 Crawley Road
Luton, Bedfordshire
LU1 1HX
tel: 01582 487701
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THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

Fight the gay fight

Sadly, there have always been examples across the world of one group of people fighting, quite literally, with another group of people over their rights; over what they see as inequality, or simply in retaliation for the wrongs carried out by another.

These groups are separated by religion, ethnicity, nationality - and each must believe fervently that they're in the right.

All too often it seems that once the violence has started, it escalates rapidly and, all too often these days, turns into terrorism.

That's not to say that some of these disputes aren't based on valid arguments - although some are so complex and intractable that I have no hope of my feeble brain ever getting to grips with them.

And I can kind of understand why many groups fighting for equality - fighting for basic rights - get so angry and frustrated that it boils over into violence.

However, I've never understood violence itself. I once trod on a snail (accidentally, I hasten to add), and the noise of its shell cracking has haunted me ever since.

But I am, of course, part of a long-standing fight for equality. LGBT equality. At times I've been very involved; at other times, I've taken a back seat. And it always makes me enormously proud that the fight has never been a violent one. There's perhaps been a very occasional, isolated scuffle, but never an en masse attack, either proactively against an enemy or in retaliation for any of the many hideous things that have been done to us.

In the dark days of the unequal age of consent, Section 28 and the rest, we spent our time making up chants rather than making Molotov cocktails, a sharp word or two being better in our hands than, well, our fists.

And even on a personal level, I know many gay people who've been harassed, beaten or taunted because of their sexuality, but no-one who's gone after their attacker and attacked them back.

I'm not saying that we're all saints, don't get me wrong, but I'm proud to be part of a movement that's making change without taking up arms.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Searching...

I have to admit that I can usually take or leave the gay scene - depending on the mood I'm in, of course. And that mood can be changed if I'm on holiday. And, more particularly, by whether I'm having the type of holiday I was expecting to have when I packed.

However, I seem to find myself in a minority (yes, another one!) among my friends, whose first thoughts seem to be to find the gay bars and clubs.

Now, this is all very well. And why not? But really, I do wonder whether the lengths we sometimes go to are actually worth it.
For example, last week I was on holiday with the usual author of this column. Ahead of the holiday, some research had been done into where to find the gay scene in Lanzarote (it's in the Atlantico shopping centre in Puerto del Carmen, in case you were wondering). Having arrived at our holiday destination midweek, we planned to make a trip down there on the Friday night.

"It's going to be kicking" was, I believe, the phrase. Well, after walking up, around and down more stairs than the occupants of a sketch by Escher, we found it. Yes, 'it'. The only gay bar in Lanzarote. And if finding the place was tough, the hassle we received from promoters trying to get us to visit every other bar we went past was utterly horrendous. I tried polite. Steve tried rude. Neither worked. It was truly the most hassle I've had since the phone calls about claiming back my PPI.

Anyway, we found the gay bar and went inside, where we were greeted by a very friendly barman who couldn't have been nicer. But then we *were* the only customers in the place!

And we were *still* the only customers in the place two-and-a-half hours later!

"It's weird," said the barman, "it's usually busier by now."

I wasn't convinced and thought we could probably have gone somewhere with a few more people. But we stuck it out.

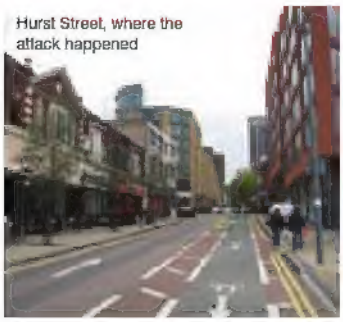
The next night, Steve said, "It's Saturday, it's going to be kicking". So we went back. Once more we had to take the same route and face the same hassle. And having got to the only gay bar in Lanzarote, we found it was closed.

So what is it that makes us feel the need to seek out the gay scene above and beyond anything else? The lengths we go to sometimes seem a bit extreme. Is it because we need to be in likeminded company? Is it because we want to feel comfortable, knowing we're in a safe environment? I'm not sure. I think it may be a bit of both. But whatever it is, you need to make sure you pack the right things.

Steve Ball was on holiday last month, so this column has been written by Colin Archer.

Quotes of the month...

Here we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from www.midlandszone.co.uk, Facebook page and Twitter feed...



Hurst Street, where the attack happened

Public step in to stop homophobic attack outside Hurst St bar

I live just around the corner from The Village Inn and, as an openly gay male, I feel unsafe here, even when walking home from New Street Station. This worries me, as I've lived in my apartment for a year and a bit now, and this is the worst it has been. I just wish the police would send more patrols out for our security, as at the moment I feel there's no police presence.
Jase Taylor (via Facebook)

Hate crime will NOT be tolerated in the West Midlands. Please call officers on 101 if you have any information in relation to this incident.
West Midlands Police (via Facebook)

Be vigilant, even within the community. Keep safe, one and all.
Colin Crawford (via Facebook)

We as a gay community need to stand up and fight back, and stop these fools who think we're weak because we're gay! Thank you to whoever stepped in to help!
Craig Mytton (via Facebook)

BANK HOLIDAY

THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL

WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THENIGHTINGALECLUB
KENT STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B5 6RD TEL:0121 622 1718

nightingale club BIRMINGHAM

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"NATURAL-LOOKING HAIR TRANSPLANTS"

DARREN ★★★★★

"LOOKING 7 YEARS YOUNGER"

MICHAEL ★★★★★

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